

GBA News - 30th September 2022



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## DE Corporate Plan 2023-23 - Consultation now Open

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The Department of Education recently launched a public consultation on its

draft Corporate Plan which outlines its strategic priorities for the next five years.

The Plan is underpinned with five new child-centred strategic priorities to help deliver the Department's vision, "*Every child and young person is happy, learning and ready to succeed*". They are:

1. Championing children and young people and the positive impact of education;
2. Helping children and young people where they need support for their learning and well-being;
3. Inspiring children and young people to make a positive contribution to society;
4. Meeting the learning needs of children and young people and developing their knowledge and skills, enabling them to fulfil their potential; and
5. Delivering an effective, child-focused, collaborative, high-quality education system.

The plan aligns with a number of strategies including the Programme for Government Draft Outcomes Framework, the Children and Young People's Delivery Plan, the Consolidated Covid-19 Recovery Plan, A Fair Start and New Decade, New Approach.

The consultation will run for eight weeks from 20 September 2022 until 15 November 2022. Consultation documents are available [here](#).

The GBA is developing a response to the consultation and is keen to hear your views. We will be reaching out to schools in the coming weeks and you can also [contact us](#) to provide your thoughts on the draft plan.

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## UK Government Announces Energy Relief Scheme

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New support for households, businesses and public sector organisations facing rising energy bills in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was announced by Business Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg last Wednesday (21st September).

This [scheme](#) will provide energy bill relief for non-domestic customers in Great Britain. Discounts will be applied to energy usage initially between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023.

**The current published details of the scheme do not apply to Northern Ireland and a similar scheme is to be established in here, aiming to provide a comparable level of support.**

The GBA is seeking further information on how the scheme will benefit Voluntary Grammar schools.

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## Area Planning Updates

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### ***Operational Plan Launched***

The Education Authority has now published Operational Plan 1: 2022-24. The plan translates the vision of the Area Planning Strategies (published June 2022) into practical area planning actions through short and medium term work streams. Links to the Strategies and accompanying Operational Plan are listed below:

- [Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision](#)
- [Special Education Strategic Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision](#)
- [Operational Plan 1](#)

The Area Planning Steering Group and the Area Planning Working Group reconvened this month and the Local Groups will meet next week on 4th October to discuss actions based on the short and medium work streams of the Operational Plan. If you have any comments or queries about educational provision in your area, please [contact us](#).

### ***Pilot exercise to be undertaken by the Department to 'normalise' school enrolment numbers***

The Department has published [Circular 2022/08](#) in relation to piloting a process

designed to 'normalise' the admissions and enrolment numbers of those schools whose actual enrolment has historically been in excess of their approved enrolment number; who meet the criteria of the process and which may not require the publication of a Development Proposal (DP).

The criteria for post-primary schools is as follows:

- The school's actual enrolment in Years 8-14 or 8-12 if appropriate, (or enrolment specific to the Dickson Plan), excluding pupils treated as supernumerary, has been above its approved enrolment number in four out of the last five years.
- The school's Year 8 approved admissions has been reached in four out of the last five years.
- Parental preferences evidence over-subscription at total Year 8 applications stage in four out of the last five years.
- The school's current approved enrolment number is above 500 at Years 8-12 or would be if the increase is approved

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## DE Launches Shared Education Strategy

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Education Minister, Michelle McIlveen, has launched the [Mainstreaming Shared Education Strategy](#), setting out the vision and plans for embedding Shared Education in the Northern Ireland education system.

Speaking about the new strategy, the Minister said:

“The benefits of Shared Education are clear. Shared learning experiences contribute to improved educational outcomes, and meaningful engagement between pupils from different backgrounds helps to promote good relations between communities...Extending the reach of Shared Education will help to provide opportunities for all children and young people to benefit from shared learning experiences.”

**Please see the article below for details on a new training programme which includes webinars on Shared Education.**

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## TPL "Bitesize" Programme - Shared Education

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The Education Authority's Shared Education and Sectoral Support teams have launched a Teacher Professional Learning "Bitesize" Programme, designed to enable teachers and school leaders to engage in a range of Shared Education webinars and other topics such as Community Relations Equality & Diversity (CRED).

**The first webinar (4th October 2022, 3.30-4.30pm), "Leading and Coordinating a Shared Education Partnership"**, aims to provide school leaders, current SE Coordinators and aspiring leaders with an understanding of the roles and responsibilities associated with leading a Shared Education Partnership.

A focus on planning, monitoring and evaluating Shared Education will be a core component of the webinar. This will be beneficial to current Shared Education Partnerships and those schools beginning their Shared Education journey.

For more information on the programme and to register for a webinar(s), please see the [TPL Bitesize booklet](#).

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## Board of Governor Training - Stakeholder Group to Reconvene

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The Regional Stakeholder Group for Board of Governor training will reconvene next month to discuss the ongoing programme of training for Boards of Governors. The Term 1 2022/23 training programme contains details on the various modules and how to access them - available [here](#). Modules include Safeguarding, Effective Governance and tailored induction training for new Voluntary Grammar school Governors, developed by the GBA specifically for Governors in our member schools.

If you have any comments or queries regarding Governor training, please [get in touch](#) and we will take these forward at the next regional meeting on your

behalf.

The GBA also recently provided a response to the Department of Education's School Governance Survey, available [here](#).



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## Ongoing Consultations - September 2022

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[The Department of Education Consultation on Period Products \(Free Provision\) Regulations](#) (22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 - 17th October 2022)

This Consultation relates to proposals for Regulations that DE has to have in place by 11 May 2023, under the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

**In relation to schools, DE is proposing to specify the following Public Service Bodies in the regulations:**

1. The Education Authority as manager of controlled schools.
2. **All voluntary schools.**
3. All grant maintained integrated schools
4. All independent schools

**DE is proposing that duties would sit with the “managers” of each of these bodies, therefore, in the case of a Voluntary Grammar school, the provision would be managed by individual schools.**

The GBA has contacted a sample of schools regarding this consultation to ensure schools are content with the proposals. If you have any comments, concerns or queries regarding the consultation, [please let us know](#).

[Consultation on functions currently delivered by the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland \(GTCNI\)](#) (13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022)

GTCNI was dissolved on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021, with its council standing down with immediate effect. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the functions currently assigned to GTCNI to determine which were critical and should be preserved, and how these functions could be delivered more efficiently and effectively.

The GBA will be submitting a response to this consultation based on the advice of our former representative on the Board of the Council. This will be a broad response which aims to capture the views of the voluntary sector.

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## NI Assembly Updates

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The NI Assembly remains dissolved however questions continue to be tabled for answer by MLAs on Education matters and are available [here](#) (select “Minister of Education” from drop down menu then click search).

If an Executive is not formed by the 28th October 2022, Ministers in Northern Ireland will lose office and the Secretary of State, Chris Heaton-Harris (appointed, 6th September 2022), would come under a duty to call an election to take place within 12 weeks.

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## NISTR Update - Teacher Search Functionality now Available

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EA's NISTR team is pleased to share that they have successfully implemented a new ‘Supply Teacher Search’

**How to use the new Search functionality:**

- Create a booking based on your requirements and click search
- A list of Supply Teachers will be returned who meet your booking requirements
- Navigate to the search bar that states: TR number, Name, Surname. Enter the

teachers' names or TR Number and click on the small blue magnifying glass symbol.

- The teachers name should appear in the search list

For full details on the search function and how to get support from EA, please [click here](#). You can also contact the GBA ([contact us](#)) if you are having ongoing issues with the system.

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## Teaching & Non-Teaching Vacancies

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The GBA provides a free advertising service for our member schools. Job vacancies are posted on our website and Twitter page.

**If you would like us to host a vacancy for your school, please [contact us](#), using our [job template](#) and allow one working day for posts to be uploaded. This does not include bank holidays and weekends.**

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