



Chairperson's Message

Dear member school,

Welcome to the December edition of the GBA news.

As we approach the Christmas break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership as we re-adjust to normal school life following the pandemic.

Schools have overcome a multitude of unprecedented obstacles in the past few years yet have continued to provide quality education to the pupils in their care. There is much to be proud of.

In the New Year, you will receive an invitation to our Annual General Meeting and you will have the opportunity to make nominations to the GBA Executive Committee.

Members of the Executive Committee provide invaluable insights and advice on matters such as education policy and practice, school governance, legislation, human resources and finance, to name a few.

Overall, our Executive Members aim to uphold the Voluntary Principle and contribute positively to the educational experience of children and young people.

Schools are welcome to nominate members from their Board of Governors and we also have a vacancy for a practising Principal to join the Committee.

We look forward to receiving your nominations and to seeing you at the AGM.

On behalf of the GBA Executive Committee and Staff, we hope that you enjoy a well-deserved break over the Christmas period.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Jacqueline Weir
GBA Executive Committee Chair

Area Planning Update

The Education Authority (EA) is currently planning and identifying locations to meet demand for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools (SPiMs) for September 2023.

In establishing Specialist Provision classes in mainstream schools, the EA has developed specific criteria and indicators, as detailed in the Framework for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools. These are used to identify the gaps in the existing Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools and to identify mainstream schools in which to establish suitable provision to meet the needs of an area.

The GBA is meeting with members of the EA's Area Planning team this week to discuss potential provision in the Voluntary Grammar sector and continues to engage with member schools regarding this type of provision. If you have any

questions or comments regarding SPiMs, please [contact us](#).

Consultations - December 2022

Public Consultation on EA's Draft Interim Language Policies

The Education Authority has drafted Interim Language Policies for the Irish and Ulster-Scots Languages (Draft Interim Language Policies) and is seeking views. More information is available [here](#).

The public consultation runs from:

Monday 14 November 2022 until Monday 27 February 2023 at 6pm.



The poster features the Education Authority logo at the top. Below it, the text reads: 'Public Consultation' in large bold letters. Underneath, two policy titles are listed: 'Interim Policy for the Provision of Services and Information in Irish' and 'Interim Policy for the Provision of Services and Information in Ulster-Scots'. A section titled 'Open Stakeholder Engagement Sessions' lists four dates and times: Thursday 8th December 2022, Tuesday 13th December 2022, Tuesday 17th January 2023, and Tuesday 24th January 2023, all from 10:00 am to 11:00 am via MS Teams. At the bottom, it asks to register for an engagement session using the link forms.office.com/r/xSFdg57NSn.

🎄 **GBA Christmas Closure Dates** 🎄

The GBA office will be closed from:

- Tuesday 20th December-Wednesday 4th January 2023 inclusive.

We will re-open as normal on Thursday 5th January 2023.

Thank you to all our schools for their continued engagement with us throughout 2022.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and warmest wishes for 2023.

Shared Education Updates

T:Buc Camps Application Process Now Open

The [Together Building A United Community \(T:Buc\) Camps](#) Application Process, for 2023/24, is now open. The T:Buc Programme provides opportunities, for Shared Education Partnerships, to apply for further resourcing which can enhance their current Shared Education Programmes. The programme has now been expanded to include children and young people attending schools from 9 – 19 years old. This means the programme is open to Primary, Post-Primary & Special School Partnerships.

Completed applications must be returned to the Education Authority no later than 4pm on Tuesday 31st January 2023.

Teaching & Non-Teaching Vacancies

****Please note the above Christmas closure dates if you are sending a job vacancy request****

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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