



GBA Issues Press Release on Education Budget

Following the announcement of this year's budget by the Secretary of State, Chris Heaton-Harris, the GBA has issued a statement to express our concerns

Speaking after the publication of the budget, GBA Chairperson, Leo O'Reilly said:

“For over a decade schools have faced real terms cuts to their budgets... The cut to the education budget announced today is yet a further blow to schools. The impact of this budget will be multi-generational. The cessation of extended schools funding and cuts to much needed school building programmes are clear examples of this. The announcement also fails to address the public expenditure position moving forward. Without a financial plan for the future education and other public services face the bleak prospect of yet more uncertainty, underfunding and instability. Education has been badly served by a succession of one year budgets which have thwarted any ability for long term planning. It is imperative that we invest and plan in education – now and for the future”

The GBA will continue to advocate for better and sustainable education funding for our schools.

Inquiry into Funding of Public Services - Update

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee is currently examining evidence regarding the funding of public services in Northern Ireland.

This includes an analysis of the financial situation in our education sector and how the lack of a functioning Executive has impacted on budgetary information and management.

The GBA is shortly submitting a response to the inquiry which will reflect our deep concern at the budget allocation and the capital and resource implications for our member schools.

We will share the response with our schools in due course.



GBA Premises - New Address

We are delighted to announce that the GBA is now based at our new premises in the main building of Stranmillis University College, Belfast. Our address for correspondence is:

Governing Bodies Association (NI).

First Floor, Main Building,

Stranmillis University College,

Stranmillis Rd,

Belfast,

BT9 5DY

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Consultations - April 2023

Consultation on the NI Teachers' Pension Scheme Retrospective Remedy

In 2015 the Northern Ireland Public Sector Pension Schemes, including NITPS, were reformed and new career average schemes were introduced. These reforms also saw the introduction of transitional protections that meant those members within 10 years of their normal pension age could remain in the legacy schemes for a tapered period. In 2018, the Court of Appeal found that this was discriminatory on the basis of age.

The policy to remove the effect of the transitional protections, seen between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022, has become known as the 2015 Remedy or the 'McCloud' judgment.

The Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Act 2022 legislates for how the Government will remove the discrimination identified by the courts in the way that the 2015 reforms were introduced for some members. The 2015 remedy to remove discrimination is made up of two parts. Phase one, the prospective remedy, was completed last year with all active members of the NITPS becoming members of the 2015 reformed scheme (career average) from 1 April 2022, irrespective of age. Phase two, the retrospective remedy, will allow eligible members the choice between their legacy scheme (final salary) or 2015 reformed scheme (career average) for the remedy period (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022). For eligible members who already have a pension in payment a

choice will be offered as soon as is reasonably practicable after 1 October 2023.

The Department of Education is consulting on how phase two will be implemented for NITPS to remove the effect of the transitional protections seen between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022, the remedy period, and introduce provisions for a deferred choice underpin (DCU) for eligible members. The consultation document sets out how the NITPS regulations will work in practice, the remedy choices that members will have, and how these will work.

The consultation is an opportunity for affected scheme members, or any other interested individuals and organisations to comment on the draft proposals before they are made final.

Please click [here](#) for further information about the consultation and how to respond. **The consultation will close on 16th June 2023 at 5pm.**

Area Planning Update

Specialist Provision and Operational Plan 1

The Education Authority continues to work to identify pressures for Specialist School places and demand for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools (SPiMs) for September 2023 and beyond.

Workstreams within Operational Plan 1 are progressing - pre-publication consultations can be found [here](#). For current Development Proposals, please click [here](#).

The Area Planning Governance Structures also continue to analyse future enrolment trends and the impact this will have on individual schools and the overall sustainability of the school estate.

If you are considering a proposal or if wish to have an initial conversation regarding any aspect of Area Planning, please [contact us](#).



GBA Member School Subscriptions

The GBA depends on membership subscriptions to enable us to carry out our work on behalf of the voluntary grammar sector and are a key source of income. We will shortly be issuing letters and forms to individual schools to request the annual subscription. Given the current budgetary position, the fee will remain at the same rate as last year. Please look out for the letter in your inbox and we thank you for your support and cooperation with this.

DE Publishes Integrated Education Strategy

The Department of Education has recently published a Strategy for Integrated Education and an associated action plan. A copy of the document is available [here](#).

The GBA is engaging with the Department regarding the strategy and will shortly be submitting a response. If you have any comments or feedback please [contact us](#).

Review of School Uniform Policy

The Department of Education has commenced a review of school uniform policy in preparation for potential future statutory guidance in this area. Last week, a delegation of the GBA's Executive Committee met with the Department's review team to discuss views on school uniform policy and options for any future guidance. If you would like to feed into the review please [contact us](#).

Shared Education News

A menu of Teacher Professional Learning Modules has been developed for practitioners to build the capacity of the workforce, across the school system, to deliver high quality Shared Education. This [site](#) provides a range of online learning modules that can be accessed by practitioners, schools, partnerships and wider clusters at any time.

CCEA Launches Virtual True Colours Art & Design Exhibition 2023

After the successful return of the True Colours Art and Design Exhibition at Belfast's Ulster Museum earlier this year, CCEA has launched an impressive virtual format of the exhibition.

Click on the graphic below to view the Art & Design work of Northern Ireland students which includes a number of stunning pieces from our member schools.



TRUE COLOURS

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION NOW AVAILABLE

GBA May Bank Holiday Closure Dates

Please note that the GBA office will be closed on 1st, 8th and 29th May 2023.

Advertising of Teaching & Non-Teaching Vacancies on the GBA Website

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 at least one working day for posts to be uploaded. Please bear in mind that we are dealing with a high volume of job adverts at this time of year and a slight delay in posting jobs may be experienced.