
GBA News - 25th May 2023



GBA Responds to Integrated Education Strategy

The Department of Education recently published a Strategy for Integrated Education and an associated action plan (available [here](#)).

The GBA has provided an initial response to the Department outlining issues and key areas of challenge such as:

- The definition of integrated education.
- Measuring demand for integrated education and other forms of educational provision.
- Societal change.

A copy of our response is available [here](#).

Inquiry into Funding of Public Services - Update

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee recently called for written evidence regarding the funding of public services in Northern Ireland and is now in the process of conducting oral evidence sessions (click [here](#) for more information).

The GBA has since submitted a written response outlining our concerns specific to the funding of the education sector and challenges facing voluntary grammar schools. A copy of the submission is available [here](#).



Independent Review of SEN Published

The Department of Education has welcomed an independent review that forms the basis for transformational change of the SEN system in Northern Ireland.

The IPSOS review was commissioned by the Department in April 2022 to look at current SEN services and provision with the aim of improving outcomes for children with SEN right across Northern Ireland.

Following consideration of the report, the Department will publish a more detailed response to the findings and recommendations in due course.

The report can be accessed [here](#).

Area Planning Update

Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools

A final tranche of 22 Specialist Provision classes, to be established in September 2023 (or as soon as possible thereafter) is currently out for consultation, with additional classes to be established after this date, depending on the needs of different areas across Northern Ireland. More information on the consultations is available [here](#).

Operational Plans - Current and Upcoming

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

Work will soon be underway to analyse future need and develop workstreams for Operational Plan 2: 2024-26. If you are considering a significant change to your school that may require a Development Proposal please [contact us](#).

Normalisation Update

The consultation with potentially affected schools has now ended and the Department will now carry out an analysis of the evidence and responses received. Due to the volume of responses received and the complexities involved, this exercise is likely to take some time to complete.

Schools will be advised of the outcome of the Normalising process as soon as the Department's analysis has been completed and decisions have been made.



GBA Member School Subscriptions

Member schools were recently sent a request for the annual GBA subscription.

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.

If you have not yet responded, please check your inbox for the request or if you haven't received it, please [contact us](#).

Shared Education

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.

GBA May Bank Holiday Closure

Please note that the GBA office will be closed on **Monday 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. The Education Authority website also links to the GBA jobs section.

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 note the closure date above and send any job requests to us by 5pm on Thursday 25th May. Requests sent through after this will be processed from 9am on Tuesday 30th May.

Governing Bodies Association · First Floor, Main Building, · Stranmillis University College, Stranmillis Rd ·
Belfast, BT9 5DY · United Kingdom