



DE Launches Consultation on Education Budget Allocation

The Department of Education has launched a public consultation on the equality implications following the announcement by the Secretary of State on the 2023-24 budget allocations.

The [consultation document](#) details the Department's proposed 2023-24 Budget allocations and how they will impact on its ability to deliver public services, in the midst of the current cost of living crisis.

The Department welcomes comment on any aspects of this document. Interested parties are encouraged to make responses by **13 August 2023**, which will be used to inform further mitigation measures and reallocation of any additional funding available during 2023-24.

The GBA will be submitting a response to the consultation and planning a programme of engagement to address the grave concerns around the Education Budget.

Education Cuts - "Rapid Response" Report Published

A "rapid response" report, "*The Consequences of the Cuts to Education for*

Children and Young People in Northern Ireland" has been written by academics from Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, Stranmillis University College and Newcastle University, providing an analysis of the consequences of the funding reductions and lack of investment across multiple aspects of education provision in Northern Ireland.

A full copy of the report is available [here](#).



All Ireland Scholarships 2023

The All Ireland Scholarship Scheme which is funded by JP McManus provides financial support to high achieving students from low income households.

The scholarship offers students financial support of £5,500 per annum for the duration of their course.

Twenty five scholarships will be awarded to students who attend a grant aided post primary school or a Further Education College in Northern Ireland.

- **Nineteen Scholarships will be awarded to the top 'A' Level students from grant aided Post Primary Schools.** A minimum of two Scholarships will be offered in each county based on where students live.
- **Six Scholarships will be awarded to the top Level 3 Extended Diploma students from Further Education Colleges.** One Scholarship will be awarded in each of the six Further Education Colleges.

Applicants must have been in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) at the time of examination, and due to commence an undergraduate course in university in the academic year of 2023/2024.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **4pm on Thursday 31 August 2023**.

For more information and to apply, please click [here](#).

Method of Calculation for Part-time Teachers - Updated Guidance

The Department of Education has issued the following circular, [Method of Calculating Additional Days and Hours for Part Time Teachers](#), which replaces circulars 1990/35 1995/1 and is effective from 1st July 2023. Please click on the link above for more information.

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. If you are interested in having an initial conversation regarding Specialist Provision in your school, please [contact us](#).

Operational Plans - Current and Upcoming

The current Operational Plan, [Operational Plan 1: 2022-24 Primary, Special and Post Primary Schools \(including Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools\)](#) is underway. Pre-publication consultations can be found [here](#) and current Development Proposals (awaiting a decision), are available [here](#) (page also links to past Development Proposal decisions).

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](#).



GBA Attends Research Launch

The GBA recently attended a research event at Queen's University Belfast for the launch of the report: '*Experiences of Education Among Minority Ethnic Groups in Northern Ireland*' which examined the school experiences among minority ethnic and migrant families.

The research focused on four main topics: school admissions and transfer; school life and peer relationships; curriculum issues including representation of diversity and English language learning; and home-school relationships.

Key findings include:

- Some parents spoke about the risk of special educational needs (SEN) being missed among children with English as an additional language or the difficulty of having concerns or diagnoses recognised by the school.
- Experiences of verbal and physical racist bullying, as well as direct and indirect discrimination, are widely reported by families.
- Children and parents largely have positive views on learning and sharing about cultural and religious diversity at school, but some identify a need

for greater representation of diversity in the curriculum, particularly in subjects such as history and religious education.

A full copy of the report is available [here](#).

Shared Education

CCEA has recently released guides to implementing Shared Education partnerships in line with the primary and post-primary Northern Ireland Curriculum and including CCEA qualifications at Key Stage 4 and Post-16.

The guides can support ideas for shared practice for partnerships and highlight:

- cross-curricular teaching approaches;
- addressing sensitive issues with your pupils; and
- the significance of developing Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

Link to guides: [CCEA Supporting Shared Education](#)

GBA Summer Closure Dates

In order to facilitate bank holidays and staff leave, please note that the GBA office will be closed on the following dates:

- Monday 3rd July 2023
 - Monday 10th July 2023
 - Wednesday 12th July 2023 - Monday 17th July 2023, inclusive.
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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.**

Due to bank holidays and staff leave during the summer months, please ensure that job requests are sent to us 2 working days in advance of required publish date. Thank you.