GBA News - Thursday 26th November 2026



Erasmus +
Funding Call Now Open

Erasmus+ is now open for applications. If your school has been thinking about taking part in an international project, now is the time to turn ideas into action.

Erasmus+ offers funding to support organisations across education, training, youth and sport to create new opportunities, develop skills and build partnerships across Europe.

Whether you're looking to give new experiences to your pupils, support professional development for staff or collaborate with schools internationally, an Erasmus+ grant can help bring your ideas to life.

Erasmus+ has brought together some useful resources, upcoming events and inspiring case studies to help you get started and make the most of the opportunities available. Click here for further information and guidance. Key dates for applications are also included in the table below.

Key dates:

Date	Activity
November 2026	Erasmus+ funding call opens
11 February 2027 (11.00 UK time)	Deadline for youth and sports mobility grant applications (key action 1)
18 February 2027 (11.00 UK time)	Deadline for higher education, vocational education and training (VET), adult education and schools mobility grant applications (key action 1)
9 March 2027 (11.00 UK time)	Deadline for majority of partnership grant applications (key action 2)
May – August 2027	Receive funding outcomes

Governance Matters

Health & Safety Resources

GBA recently hosted an online session for our member schools with HSENI to provide an overview of this year's inspection areas:
1. Duty to manage asbestos in non-domestic premises;
2. Management of work-related violence and aggression at work.

Please click on the respective topics above for a copy of the presentations from the session.

Governor Learning Portal

The EA's Governor Learning Portal is a hub for online learning and development as a School Governor.

What's in the Portal?

Your account gives you secure access to:

- Training videos
- Key documents
- Booking for face to face events

Everything is in one place to support your role and development.

Request Your Training Record

Any Principal or Governor can request a copy of their training record by emailing:

govtraining@eani.org.uk

Getting Started

Login details and access links are included in the Board of Governor Training Programme, available from your Principal.

If you experience any issues, please contact:

govtraining@eani.org.uk

Click the link below to explore current training opportunities.

Explore Training Opportunities

Recent DE Publications

Circular 2026/22 - Safer Recruitment and Pre Engagement Checks for People Working, Volunteering and Providing Commissioned Services in Schools, EOTAS centres, Early Years Settings, Youth Settings, Managing Authorities and other educational settings | Department of Education - This circular sets out the safer recruitment, pre-engagement and Access NI requirements that apply to individuals working, volunteering or providing services within schools, EOTAS centres, early years settings, youth settings and other education settings. It replaces previous guidance and reflects current safeguarding legislation and policy requirements.

Minor Works Capital Expenditure - 2018/19 - 2025/26 | Department of Education - Minor works expenditure data by school for the years 2018-19 to 2025-26. 2 additional tables are linked to this data: a summary of the data by

constituency and a list of the top 50 schools by value of minor works capital expenditure.

Martyn's Law: Updates

Martyn’s Law aims to strengthen organisational readiness and improve the protection of pupils, staff and visitors in the event of a terrorist incident.

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has recently released new tools to support organisations in preparing for Martyn's Law, developed with the help of volunteer premises and events and protective security partners.

These tools don't provide a definitive checklist of what to put in place. What you need to do will look different depending on the specifics of your premises or event and the resources available to you.

Webinars

SIA is also hosting a series of webinars open to those in scope at the end of November and into December. These will provide an opportunity to talk through the resources and address any questions.

Sign up at the links below:

7 Dec **- 2pm - 3pm**

8 Dec **- 1.30pm - 2.30pm**

10 Dec **- 10am - 11am**

10 Dec **- 1.30pm - 2.30pm**

Legislation Updates: Education Inspections Bill

The Education Inspections Bill is continuing its passage through the Northern Ireland Assembly, with the Committee for Education undertaking detailed scrutiny of the proposed legislation.

Recent committee discussions have highlighted a number of important questions about how the proposals will work in practice, including the implications for teachers, the role of employers, the future regulatory responsibilities of GTCNI and the inspection of Religious Education (RE).

The Committee has extended its scrutiny period of the Inspections Bill to 9 December 2026. It will subsequently report to the Assembly before the Bill proceeds to Consideration Stage, when MLAs will debate its detail and consider amendments in the Assembly chamber.

We will keep you updated on the progression of the Bill, and other legislation, via the monthly newsletter/ Friday political updates.

RAISE Collaborative Professional Learning Clusters Programme

The Collaborative Professional Learning Clusters Programme supports a key commitment within the Department's TransformED programme to strengthen and support school collaboration. It is being delivered as a cross-cutting initiative under the RAISE Programme.

The pilot programme will support ten clusters of schools, with each cluster typically comprising around five schools working together on a shared area of focus.

Area Learning Communities, professional learning communities, shared education partnerships and other existing school partnerships are invited to apply. Schools wishing to form a new cluster specifically for the programme are also encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest. Cross-phase and cross-sector applications are welcome. **The closing date for applications is Friday 18 December 2026 at 5pm**.

For further information and to apply, click here.

Water Efficiency Webinar - Consumer Council

As part of their Water Efficiency for Schools Project, the Consumer Council has produced a free recorded webinar for GBA members on how schools can be more water efficient. The webinar includes the following:

- Key lessons and insights from the water efficiency work that the Consumer Council has previously done in collaboration with the Education Authority.

- An explanation on what makes up your water bill and help on using the Consumer Council's free online water bill checker.

- How your school can improve its water efficiency level by calculating average daily consumption per pupil.

- Provide a template to allow you to manage water meter readings.

The webinar can be accessed here.

Applications for the UK–Ukraine School Partnerships programme now open

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Funded by the UK Government, the programme brings teachers and pupils from the UK and Ukraine together through a shared love of reading, helping

schools build lasting international partnerships while supporting pupils' confidence and wellbeing.

As the UK–Ukraine School Partnerships programme enters its third year, British Council is inviting more schools to join in building meaningful connections between the two countries.

As a participating school, you'll benefit from:

- a partnership with a school in Ukraine.
- a fully funded workshop in Poland in September 2027, where teachers can meet their Ukrainian counterparts and plan joint activities.
- training and guidance on developing international school partnerships.
- ongoing support and opportunities to share experiences with fellow teachers.

The programme is open to state-funded primary and secondary schools across all four nations of the UK, working with pupils aged 7 to 14.

For further information and to apply, please click here.

NI Assembly Education Service - November Updates

2027 Teacher Professional Learning Days

- Learning for Life & Work Friday, 22 Jan 2027 (Parliament Buildings, Stormont)

- History (CCEA Syllabus) Friday, 29 Jan 2027 (Parliament Buildings, Stormont)

- Online Work Insight Programme for Students, 3 & 4 December 2026
Applications are invited from pupils (aged 15 – 18) who wish to take part in a 2-day online work insight programme. Students will have the opportunity to

discuss job skills and job roles with MLAs and Assembly staff.

Please email education.service@niassembly.gov.uk to book a place/ for more information.

Area Planning Updates

The Education Authority launched 'Operational Plan 3: 2026-27' on September 10, 2026, to set out key area planning activities for sustainable schools.

The "workstreams" within the Operational Plan are progressed through the Development Proposal process which involves a "pre-publication consultation" by the EA with affected schools - proposals at this stage can be accessed here.

Following pre-publication consultation, proposals are then published on the Department of Education website and are subject to a two month "objection period" prior to a ministerial decision on the outcome - proposals at this stage can be accessed here.

If your school is considering a significant change and you would like to have an initial, confidential, conversation about the DP process or about Area Planning in general, please contact us.

Shared Education News

Good Relations Peacebuilding Through Education Awards

The Good Relations Peacebuilding Through Education Award, delivered by the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council (CRC) in association with the Education Authority (EA), recognises the outstanding contribution of teachers and school leaders who demonstrate exceptional commitment to promoting good relations, inclusion and peacebuilding through education.

The award celebrates those who play a significant role in supporting children and young people to develop understanding, respect and positive relationships across different backgrounds and communities.

Recipients may be classroom teachers, middle leaders, senior leaders or principals whose work has made a measurable impact on shared learning both within their school and across the wider education community. This could include developing partnerships with other schools, engaging families and local communities, and creating opportunities for high-quality shared learning.

Further information is available here. The closing date for entries is Thursday 17th December 2026.

Advertising of Teaching and Support roles 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.

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