



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for Education

## Minutes of Proceedings

27 May 2025

**Meeting Location:** Senate Chamber Parliament Buildings

**Present:**

Mr Nick Mathison MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr David Brooks MLA  
Mrs Michelle Guy MLA  
Mr Peter Martin MLA  
Mrs Cathy Mason MLA  
Mr Danny Baker MLA

Ms Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Thomas McConville (Clerical Officer)

**Present Via Teleconference facilities:**

Mr Colin Crawford MLA

**Apologies:**

Ms Cara Hunter MLA



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The meeting commenced at 9:15am in public session.

### **1. Apologies**

An apology was received from Ms Cara Hunter.

### **2. Chairperson's Business**

There was no Chairperson's business.

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill – Oral Briefing by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission**

The Committee noted a Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission submission on the Bill.

Correspondence on the Bill from the Department of Education was tabled.

The following witnesses joined the meeting at 9:16am:

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Dr Colin Caughey, Director of Policy, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Ms Julia Buchanan, Senior Policy and Research Officer, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Ms Emily Mills, Policy and Research Officer, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission



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Mrs Mason joined the meeting at 9:18am.

Mr Brooks joined the meeting at 9:19am.

The witnesses provided the Committee with a briefing on the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill.

Mr Baker joined the meeting at 9:24am.

Mr Martin joined the meeting at 9:26am.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission seeking a copy of its response to the Department of Education consultation on Uniform Policy.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to request and consider draft amendments to the Bill pursuant to the advice received.

The Committee noted a response from the Department of Education on the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill.

### **5. Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

### **6. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Committee for Education meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 May 2025 at 2:00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03am.



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**Nick Mathison MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Education**  
**4 June 2025**