



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Education

Minutes of Proceedings

17 June 2025

Meeting Location: Room 29 Parliament Buildings

Present:

Mr Nick Mathison MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Danny Baker MLA
Ms Cheryl Brownlee MLA
Mrs Michelle Guy MLA
Mr Peter Martin MLA

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

Apologies:

Mr Colin Crawford MLA
Ms Cara Hunter MLA
Mrs Cathy Mason MLA



The meeting commenced at 4:02pm in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Colin Crawford, Cara Hunter and Cathy Mason.

2. Chairperson's Business

There was no Chairperson's business.

The meeting moved to closed session at 4:03pm.

3. School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill – Oral Briefing by RAISE

The Committee noted a paper from Assembly Research and Information Service (RaISe) 'Inclusion and School Uniform: Religious Observance, Disability, Gender Equality and Race'.

The following witnesses joined the meeting at 4:03pm:

Ms Gillian Kane, Research Officer, NIA RaISe

Ms Arifah Aftab, Researcher, NIA RaISe

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

This was followed by a question and answer session.

Ms Brownlee joined the meeting at 4:13pm.



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4. School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill – Oral Briefing by Northern Ireland Assembly Legal Services

The following witness joined the meeting at 4:36pm:

Ms Julie Byers, Legal Advisor, NIA Legal Services

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

This was followed by a question and answer session.

The Committee moved to Public session at 5:34pm.

7. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

8. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee for Education meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 June 2025 at 2:00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.

Nick Mathison MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Education
25 June 2025