



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for Education

## Minutes of Proceedings

24 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  
Ms Cara Hunter MLA  
Mr Peter Martin MLA  
Mrs Cathy Mason 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



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The meeting commenced at 4:00pm in public session.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Colin Crawford.

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

There was no Chairperson's business.

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

The Committee noted a paper from Assembly Research and Information Service (RaISe) 'Clarifications and further literature on gender-neutral school uniforms'.

The following witnesses joined the meeting at 4:02pm:

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.

Mrs Guy joined the meeting at 4:05pm.

This was followed by a question and answer session.



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### **4. School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill – Oral Briefing by Northern Ireland Assembly Bill Office**

The Committee noted:

- draft amendments under consideration in the Committee Stage of the School Uniforms;
- a briefing paper from the Bill Clerk setting out revisions to amendments; and
- a response from the Department of Education providing a response to the Committee's queries and to the potential amendments currently being considered by the Committee.

The following witness joined the meeting at 4:07pm:

Mr Stephen Orme, Assembly Clerk, Bill Office

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

Mr Martin joined the meeting at 4:09pm

This was followed by a question and answer session.

### **5. School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill - Informal clause-by-clause consideration.**

The Committee considered the Clauses of and proposed amendments to the Bill.

### **6. Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.



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

The next Committee for Education meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 2:00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

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