



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Research and Information Service Briefing Note

30 June 2026

School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill: potential stakeholder list

RaISe

This information is provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in support of their duties, and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. It should not be relied upon as professional legal advice, or as a substitute for it.

1 Introduction

This Briefing Note has been prepared to inform the planning of the Ad Hoc Committee for the consideration of the School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill. It comprises a list of potential representative bodies and organisations, as well other stakeholders in Northern Ireland, to inform Committee deliberations on who it wishes to consult when scrutinising the School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill, introduced 22 June 2026.

The list is informed by consideration of relevant literature on gendered uniforms; review of the [Northern Ireland Assembly Commission Equality Scheme 2022 - 2026 consultees](#); and consideration of responses to previous relevant consultations including the Department of Education's [consultation on a proposed School Uniform Bill](#), the Committee for Education's scrutiny of the [School Uniforms \(Guidelines and Allowances\) Bill](#) (now Act), and Committee for Education's stakeholder engagements during its planning of the School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill. It should be noted that the list does not comprise all organisations who responded to DE's consultation or the Committee's prior engagements. Some of the listed organisations may have previously provided feedback to consultation/calls for evidence, but on an anonymous basis.

For Members' ease of reference, the following key has been used to highlight the organisations/representative bodies that have engaged with previous consultations.

Key

- * Responded to the Department of Education's consultation on a proposed School Uniforms Bill (20 June to 27 September 2024)
- ∞ Engaged with the Committee for Education's scrutiny of the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill

(now Act) via oral or written submission or both
(Committee consideration ran 3 March to 2 July 2025)

- ^ Engaged with the Committee for Education's planning for the School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill via oral or written submission or both.

The list included in this paper is not intended to be exhaustive, nor is it stated in any particular order of significance. The consultation exercise is primarily the Ad Hoc Committee's responsibility.

1.1 Education arm's length bodies, sectoral support bodies and other education representatives

- Education Authority* – the [EA Youth Service](#) conducted engagement with children and young people on school uniforms on behalf of the DE, and a [response](#) from the [EA's Equality and Human Rights Service](#) was highlighted within DE's consultation report.
- [Council For Catholic Maintained Schools](#)
- [Governing Bodies Association](#)*
- [Controlled Schools' Support Council](#)
- [NI Council for Integrated Education](#)
- [Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta](#)
- [Early Years Organisation](#)
- [Catholic Schools' Trustee Service](#)*
- [Transferor Representatives Council \(TRC\)](#)
- [Free Presbyterian Education Board of Presbytery](#)^

1.2 Teaching unions / trade unions

- [National Association Of Head Teachers \(NAHT\)](#)∞
- [NASUWT](#)∞^
- [Ulster Teachers Union \(UTU\)](#)
- [Irish National Teachers' Organisation \(INTO\)](#)

- [National Education Union \(NEU\)](#)
- [The Association of School and College Leaders](#)
- [UNISON Northern Ireland](#)*
- [Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions](#)[∞]
- [Community Union](#)[∞]

1.3 Youth organisations / youth representative bodies

- [Northern Ireland Youth Assembly](#)*[∞] ^Λ
- [Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People Youth panel](#)[∞] ^Λ
- [Northern Ireland Youth Forum](#)
- [Diverse Youth NI](#)[∞]
- [Youth@CLC – youth advisory panel of Children’s Law Centre NI](#)^Λ
- [Belfast City Council Youth Council](#)^Λ
- [Include Youth](#)

1.4 Equality and human rights bodies

- [Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission](#)*[∞] ^Λ
- [Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People \(NICCY\)](#)*[∞] ^Λ
- [Equality Commission for Northern Ireland](#)*

1.5 Women’s sector organisations

- [Women’s Regional Consortium](#)*[∞] ^Λ is made up of seven women’s sector organisations: Foyle Women’s Information Network (FWIN), Women’s Resource and Development Agency (WRDA), Training for Women Network (TWN), Women’s Support Network (WSN), NI Rural Women’s Network (NIRWN), WOMEN’S TEC and The Women’s Centre Derry.
- [Women’s Policy Group](#)*^Λ

1.6 Other Voluntary / Community Groups

- [Children's Law Centre](#)^{*}
- [Children in Northern Ireland \(CiNI\)](#)^{*}
- [Parentkind](#)^{*}
- [Menstruation Matters](#)[∞]
- [Rainbow Project](#)[∞]
- [PlayBoard NI](#)
- [The Trussell Trust – Northern Ireland Network](#)^{*}

1.7 School uniform / industry representative bodies

- [Schoolwear Association](#)[∞]
- [Retail NI](#)^{*∞}