

**Policy Forum for Northern Ireland keynote seminar:
Next steps for the education system in Northern Ireland**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 15th January 2025

*****Taking place online*****



**POLICY FORUM
FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 9.05 **Key recommendations from the Independent Review of Education and priorities for implementation**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Investing in early childhood education as a means for early intervention**
Senior representative, advocacy
- 9.40 **Priorities for tackling educational disadvantage and improving outcomes**
implementing recommendations outlined in the A Fair Start report | socio-economic and gender attainment gaps | disparity between schools | vulnerable learners | impacts of the pandemic | tackling barriers to progression in education | alternative provision | learner wellbeing
Senior representative, SEN
Senior representative, post-primary school
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, youth work
Senior academic
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Continuous improvement in education in Northern Ireland and learning from best practice**
Senior representative, education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 11.05 **Assessing the future of the curriculum and qualifications in Northern Ireland**
Senior representative, qualifications
- 11.15 **Options for curriculum reform, widening educational pathways and managing the transition period**
curriculum review and developing updates curriculum | separation of CCEA curriculum and assessment functions | priorities for a Curriculum Council | potential for raising the age of compulsory education to 18 | opening vocational pathways from age 14 | ensuring qualifications meet the needs of learners and employers | reforming the Careers Service | widening measurements of assessment | limiting academic selection for post-primary transition
Senior representative, learners
Senior representative, assessment
Senior representative, FE college
Senior academic
- 11.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Priorities for the teaching workforce moving forward**
priorities for developing a workforce strategy | teacher training | staff retention | review of the Jordanstown Agreement | bolstering continuous professional development | establishing an Education Workforce Council
Senior representative, union
Senior representative, union
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, head teacher
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **The future of the education system in Northern Ireland**
Paul Givan MLA, Minister for Education, The Northern Ireland Executive
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
Sean Cudmore, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland