

**Policy Forum for Northern Ireland keynote seminar:  
Priorities and next steps for the education system in Northern Ireland**

*Timing: Morning, Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

**\*\*\*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 findings from the Independent Review of Education in Northern Ireland and priorities for policy and implementing change going forward**  
**Dr Keir Bloomer**, Chair, Independent Review of Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 Break
- 9.35 **Realising the vision for education in NI - addressing educational inequalities, curriculum and assessment, facilitating a joined-up approach to education reform, and assessing the case for an integrated education system**  
**Dr Matthew O'Neill**, Chair, Integrated AlumNI  
**Pauline Leeson**, Chief Executive, Children in Northern Ireland  
**Emma Shaw**, Executive Director, Phoenix Education Centre  
Senior representative, school  
Senior representative, IME
- 10.00 **Priorities for SEN provision**  
Senior representative, SEN
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Assessing proposals for child development and early years education in Northern Ireland - service quality and provision, integration, and holistic support for child development**  
**Pauline Walmsley**, Chief Executive Officer, Early Years  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 11.05 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 11.15 **The role of inspection and scrutiny in improving school standards in Northern Ireland**  
Senior representative, inspection
- 11.25 **Examining key enablers for success in developing a high-quality education system - funding and infrastructure, adopting innovation, student outcomes, and priorities for supporting the workforce and professional development**  
**Justin McCamphill**, National Official for Northern Ireland, NASUWT; and President, Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
**Mary Montgomery**, Principal, Belfast Boys' Model School  
**Mark Roberts**, English Teacher and Director of Research, Carrickfergus Grammar School  
Senior representative, FE  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.20 Break
- 12.25 **Policy priorities for education in Northern Ireland - considering the impact of the review's findings on system change**  
**Dr Mark Browne**, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly  
**Tiernan Phipps**, Lead Researcher, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland