

Our ref: 250702 Givan P/MW/LB

2 July 2025

Paul Givan MLA
Minister for the Department of Education
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Rathgill
Bangor
BT19 7PR

Dear Minister,

Antisemitism in Schools and Colleges

I am writing to inform you of work the NASUWT is undertaking in relation to antisemitism in schools and colleges, and to share some initial findings from our recent engagement with members.

As part of our on-going commitment to challenging all forms of racism, we have been looking specifically at the experience of antisemitism among teachers and education staff. This work is not yet concluded, but we wanted to share some emerging evidence with you.

We recently conducted a survey of NASUWT members working in schools and colleges. The responses revealed a number of deeply concerning findings, including:

- Reports from Jewish teachers who have faced antisemitic abuse from pupils and, in some cases, colleagues.
- A lack of confidence among some members that their schools would take effective action when antisemitism is reported.
- Examples where antisemitic incidents have been minimised or not recognised as racism by leadership teams.

It is clear from this evidence that more needs to be done to ensure schools and colleges are safe, respectful and inclusive environments for Jewish staff and pupils. We believe this issue requires greater attention at a national level, including support for schools in tackling antisemitism as part of their wider equalities and safeguarding responsibilities.

We are also conscious that antisemitism does not occur in isolation. There are likely to be other forms of racist behaviour and abuse affecting education staff and pupils, and we will be looking further at these issues as part of our wider equalities work.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this work with you and your officials as it develops, and to explore what more can be done to support schools and education staff in addressing antisemitism and other forms of racism.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss what more can be done to support schools and colleges in tackling antisemitism, and how the Department can show visible leadership on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Wrack', written on a light blue horizontal line.

Matt Wrack
Acting General Secretary