

Education Transformation Policy Letter

The Committee for Education, Sport and Culture has released its long-awaited policy letter on the proposed education transformation of secondary education. The policy letter is available at: <https://gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=120064&p=0>.

The policy letter contains many proposals that the NASUWT is supportive of, and the firm undertaking that the transformation process will not result in compulsory redundancies is particularly welcome, as are assurances that consultation on the proposals will continue after the debate and feedback is received.

The use of opportunities to foster multi-agency working and put services within schools is also something we support.

The policy letter does contain proposals that impact on terms and conditions for teachers, primarily around the length of the school day and the proposed enrichment activities. The NASUWT welcomes the explicit statement that these will require negotiation and, consequently, the agreement of the NASUWT for them to be put in place.

Whilst the NASUWT looks forward to engaging with the Committee over these proposals, the Union has been clear that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, and it must be stressed that the proposals contained within the policy letter are only proposals, and no agreement has been reached.

With regard to enrichment sessions, the NASUWT has secured an additional undertaking that these will require agreement for them to be introduced.

There are, however, also aspects of the policy letter with which the NASUWT is disappointed, particularly around the lack of detail in key areas, such as the staffing models and structures for the two colleges, and safeguarding arrangements for teachers who may be displaced from management positions.

The NASUWT will continue to press the Committee to agree a process for the assimilation of staff and salary protection for any teachers displaced from management positions. Meetings are scheduled throughout the summer school holidays.

Continued overleaf

The NASUWT is also aware of concerns of members around the proposed capital works, including around access to playing fields and suitability of proposed teaching rooms, and will continue to press the Committee over these issues. The NASUWT is further aware and concerned that the lack of clear information is resulting in poor morale and teachers leaving Guernsey, and this has been communicated to the Committee.

The NASUWT was disappointed that the delays to the publication of the policy letter have meant that it was released with only two weeks of the school term remaining. With the debate scheduled for early September, this constrains the ability to consult with members. However, the NASUWT urges all members to read the policy letter and submit any comments to nasuwt@mail.nasuwt.org.uk as soon as possible.

Comments from members are vital for the NASUWT to be able to convey the concerns of members to the Committee accurately and to effect change to the proposals.

Facebook Group

The NASUWT has set up a closed Facebook Group for Guernsey NASUWT members. This can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/655788341523271/>.

Only NASUWT members can access the Group, which will be used to keep members informed of developments.

