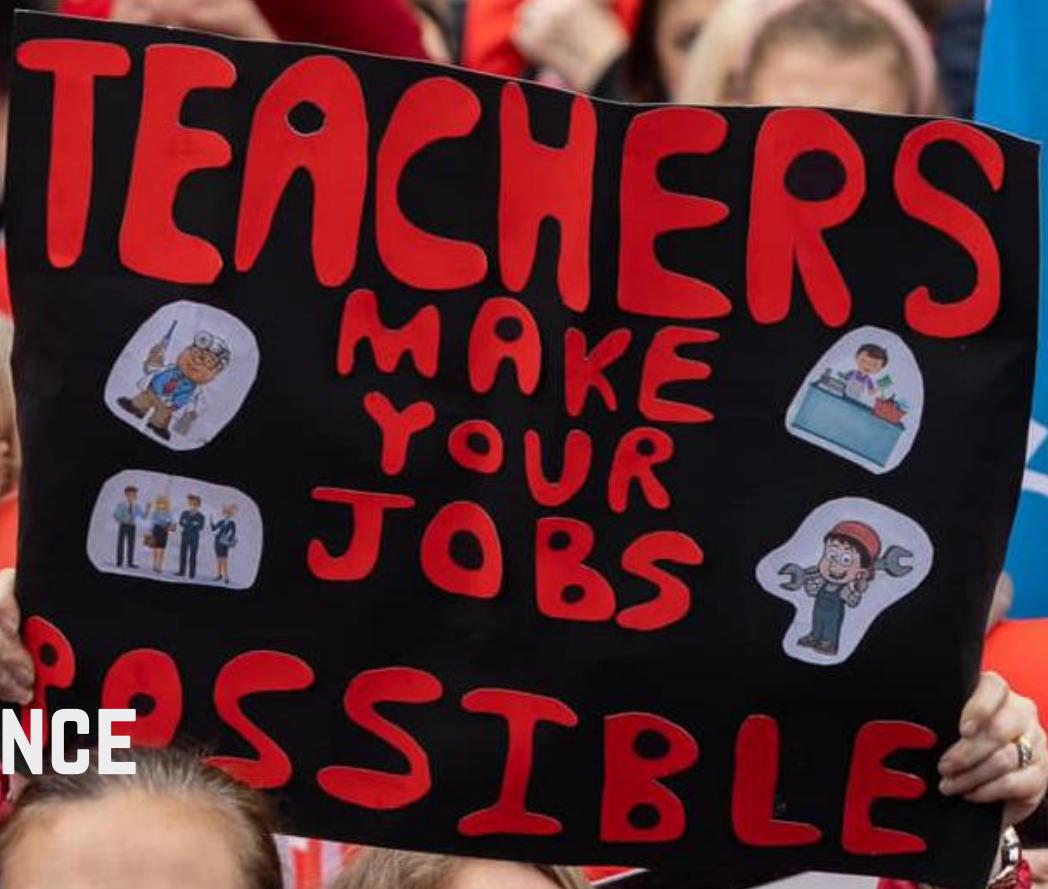


SUMMER 2023

utu NEWS

The journal of the Ulster Teachers' Union



**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
2023**

EMPOWERING EDUCATION:
UNITING TEACHERS FOR A
BRIGHTER FUTURE

**VOICES
UNITED!**

DEDICATED TEACHERS STAND STRONG IN
HISTORIC STRIKE FOR EDUCATION EQUITY

TIPS

DEFEND, SECURE, EXCEL:
EXPERT TIPS FOR SAFEGUARDING
SCHOOL CYBER SECURITY

CONTENTS

- 04** **GENERAL SECRETARY FOREWORD**
President's Perspective: Leading Education Forward.
 - 06** **COMMONWEALTH DAY**
Students from Eden Primary & Laurelhill Community College Experience the Commonwealth Celebrations.
 - 10** **EDUCATION DEMANDS BETTER**
Voices United: Teachers in Northern Ireland Unite for Fairness and Quality Education.
 - 14** **COOL GARY AND THE GANG**
This is a humorous, fun-filled book, for 9 - 11 year olds.
 - 18** **ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023**
Ulster Teachers' Union Delegates Gather for Annual Conference at Roe Park Hotel.
 - 14** **FAMILIES FIRST AWARDS**
Celebrating Excellence: UTU Member Stacey Mitchell, Honoured as Best Primary School Teacher at Families First Awards.
 - 24** **CYBER CRIME IN SCHOOLS**
This Insightful Article Delves into the World of Cybersecurity, Providing Practical Tips, Best Practices, and Expert Advice to Help Schools Navigate the Digital Landscape Safely.
 - 31** **ARTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**
Celebrating Creativity and Dedication! UTU Member Nominated for Arts Personality of the Year, Showcasing Their Remarkable Talent and Commitment to the Arts.
 - 32** **LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!**
Lisnagelvin Primary Students Mesmerise Audiences With Their Spectacular 'Night At The Movies' Show, a Magical Showcase of Talent and Creativity.
- AND MUCH MORE!**



PRESIDENTIAL COMMENT

EDUCATION DEMANDS BETTER!

This was the theme of our conference at the end of March and with the benefit of hindsight, how appropriate was this theme? The Engage programme, Extended Schools funding, Happy Healthy Minds, Holiday Hunger payments, cycling proficiency funding, and some school crossing patrol services have all been arbitrarily cut. The withdrawal of these programmes will affect the most vulnerable children in our society - surely our children deserve better and we demand better on their behalf.

Since our conference we have taken part in our first full day of strike action on the 26th April, as we continue our campaign to fight for fair pay in education. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank UTU members for participating in this strike action. The solidarity shown between UTU members and all of the other teaching unions, and the co-ordinated approach taken to the strike action, has resonated with DE, EA and with our political leaders. I truly believe that **"together we are stronger"** and be assured that UTU will continue to campaign on your behalf at every opportunity.

We had a constructive and enjoyable time at our Annual Conference, where we discussed many current issues affecting school leaders, teachers and children. We debated resolutions and agreed our agenda for the year ahead. I would like to

thank our ex-President Mrs Louise Creelman for an excellent conference and also for her hard work and commitment during her presidential year. I would like to congratulate Mrs Leigh McKay on her appointment as Vice-President. I am humbled but also very proud to lead you all as your President especially in this turbulent and yet very important year in education.

At this time of low ebb in our teaching profession, it is heartening for me to learn about the different and exciting ways in which you as teachers are creating learning opportunities and experiences for the children in your care. This depth of dedication shown by you, encourages me in that, even in the midst of the current funding crisis, we are still putting children and young people in our care first. Some examples of these experiences are included in this edition of UTU news and I am grateful to the various contributors for sharing these with us.

I know the summer term is a very busy term for teachers, but I hope you are enjoying the various events such as Coronation celebrations, sports days, school trips and summer fairs, all taking place in your schools. I wish you all the best for the remainder of this summer term and trust that you enjoy a well-deserved and restful summer break.

Lynelle Fenton

**LYNELLE FENTON
UTU PRESIDENT**



GENERAL SECRETARY FOREWORD

Colleagues

These are not easy times for education. At time of writing the Education Authority are grappling with the impossible task of trying to effect cuts of an unprecedented level and we in UTU, both you, the members in schools, and those of us representing you in HQ, cannot stretch our imaginations far enough to even begin to imagine what the end product will look like.

I say 'cuts' because these are not savings. And who would have thought that after our Covid experience anything would ever be unprecedented again? Anyone, whether within or outside the teaching profession, who was doubting the decision to take the action which all five teaching unions took on Wednesday 26th April cannot fail now to see that there was most definitely a point. Yes, the dispute is about pay, and, yes, many of you struggled with the principle of taking strike action, but we know that our members were stepping outside of their comfort zone as much for the children as for themselves – more so in many cases. To be clear, though, the dispute about teachers' pay – your pay – does not fade in terms of importance in the face of this crisis. We, the teachers and school leaders, are the backbone of this education system. We are not cogs in the wheel – we are the wheel pretty much, and it is us who will be attempting to hold the system together as those around us fall away. It is teachers and school leaders who will continue to deliver and try to give every child a fighting chance at achieving their goals and getting opportunities in life as the services disappear. We should be recognised for that, we should be valued for that – that's not selfish or self-serving. It's fair.

And with the decline in services we need the space that the Action Short of Strike is delivering for us in order to actually do the job for which we trained. But it is the children and the impact on them of this chronic long-term lack of investment which is really

hitting home. The loss of the Engage Programme, Healthy Happy Minds and the Holiday Hunger scheme caused huge concern but the cutting of Extended Schools served only to illustrate how far the decision-makers are prepared to go with no apparent care for the families who are being damaged most by this crisis. Ditto for the cuts in the school budgets which have left school leaders not with no flexibility but with no idea as to how they will keep their schools functioning in the coming months. The debacle of the placement of our most vulnerable children with SEN and the potential knock-on effect on support services is really only beginning to come to light and, unless something changes soon, the out-workings of this could be catastrophic in terms of schools' ability to cope. No amount of goodwill will pull us out of this.

But the message is getting through. Education has risen up and is now firmly on the media agenda, which, in turn, puts it firmly on the political agenda. The fact that the employers are caught in the same space as we are results in our message being relayed at all levels. Our politicians right across the spectrum are agreeing with us on the issues and know that something has to be done. It is cold comfort at the moment but we are firmly establishing the base from which to move forward when the structure falls into place. But we must stand firm. You may wonder, when adhering to the joint action short of strike, as to just what impact it is having but I can assure you it is noted, it is

acknowledged and it is causing the frustration further up the chain which it is designed to do. We are hearing it at meetings; we are making the point – and having the points made to us. I would urge you to keep up the pressure, colleagues, as it is keeping the issues on the table.

I would pay tribute to our recently elected President, Lynelle Fenton, for her efforts in this regard. She has come into the role with enthusiasm and determination and has seized every opportunity open to her to put the members' views on the table. She is a fierce advocate on your behalf.

I would further pay tribute to the Officials. The contributions of our Deputy General Secretary, Stephen McCord, have been second to none in terms of organisation of action, social media campaigns and engagement with colleagues in other unions to coordinate the way forward. That, of course, is not to mention his incredible capacity to represent members' issues, both collectively and individually. Many of you have availed of his support and know his worth. Thanks, too, go on your behalf to Rebekka Gilpin and Joseph Wyglendacz who are also formidable advocates at both management and school level, and work tirelessly to ensure the high level of service to members which is a great strength of UTU.

So let's continue to stand together and work alongside our colleagues across NITC to effect the change we need – and deserve – both for ourselves and the children in our care. We thank you for your support so far and assure you it is making a difference. Have a great break over the summer period – when you finally get there! – and we look forward to welcoming you back in August refreshed and ready for the next stage in our journey.

**YOU DESERVE BETTER.
THE CHILDREN DESERVE BETTER.
EDUCATION DEMANDS BETTER.**

**JACQUIE WHITE
GENERAL SECRETARY**



BALLYCLARE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER TAKES OVER AS UTU VICE-PRESIDENT

Leigh is a mum of two girls (19 and 17) and teaches in Ballyclare Secondary School, leading the subject of Media Studies. She is one of the safeguarding team members and is acting School Communication and Information officer as well as Year 10 Head of Boys. She was previously the Head of English in Banbridge High School.

Leigh is the Chair of the Carrick/Abbey/Larne Branch and Vice-Chair of the North Eastern Area Association. Her current position on the CEC began in 2019, however, she has sat on the executive on frequent occasions and been on numerous sub-committees over her 32-year tenure as a UTU member.

She is absolutely delighted to be our Vice-President and will fully support, our President, General and Deputy General Secretaries and the UTU team, operating in conjunction with the NITC to work towards better conditions for all our membership. Leigh is looking forward to meeting members and being their voice in whatever way she can.

SCHOOLS ACROSS NI JOIN COMMONWEALTH CELEBRATIONS

Students took in the sights of the City of London, visiting historic places of note such as Buckingham Palace before heading to Westminster Abbey to celebrate the Commonwealth of Nations.



Guests of honour among the 2,000 strong congregation included the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Samoa, High Commissioners, senior politicians, and dignitaries from across the UK and the Commonwealth, alongside athletes from the home nations who competed at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last summer, faith leaders, and over 750 school children and young people from throughout the UK. Upon Their Majesties' arrival at Westminster Abbey, The King and The Queen Consort were met by the Dean of Westminster, before greeting members of the Ngāti Rānana London Māori Club, who performed at the Great West Door ahead of the Commonwealth Day Service.

The Service commenced with a procession of Commonwealth member states' flags. As 2023 is the Commonwealth Year of Peace, a specially designed Commonwealth Flag for Peace was processed this year. The King delivered His Majesty's first Commonwealth Day Message from the Great Pulpit. The Service included special musical performances from saxophonist Yolanda Brown, West End stars Roshani Abbey and Nuwan Hugh Perera, and the all-female, Amalgamation Choir, from Cyprus. Marking Rwanda's role as the current Commonwealth Chair-in-Office, having hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2022, the Rwandan National Ballet, Urukereza, also performed.

Students from [Eden Primary School](#) and [Laurelhill Community College](#) joined His Majesty The King, The Queen Consort, Members of the Royal Family UK and Commonwealth and 750 school children and young people from across the UK to celebrate Commonwealth Day at Westminster Abbey. Organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Commonwealth Day Service is the world's premier, public event to celebrate the Commonwealth of Nations and provides an opportunity to focus attention on this voluntary association of 56 countries and their commitment to promoting democracy, human rights, the rule of law and equality for its 2.5 billion citizens. This annual event, held at Westminster Abbey, celebrates the unity, diversity, and linkages of the modern Commonwealth, and seeks to foster greater understanding of the Commonwealth's achievements and role, particularly amongst its young people.



Excited students were treated to a walking tour before setting eyes on the Palace of Westminster.



The Commonwealth Day theme for 2023 is 'Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future', highlighting the active commitment of the family of nations to support the promotion of peace, prosperity and sustainability, especially through climate action, to secure a better future for young people and improve the lives of all Commonwealth citizens.

A reflection was given by young Samoan environmental advocate Brianna Fruean, who was the youngest recipient of a Commonwealth Youth Award aged, just 16 years old. Samoa is the incoming Commonwealth Chair-in-Office and will host CHOGM in 2024.

The Commonwealth Day Service was broadcast live on BBC One for those viewing in the UK and on the BBC YouTube channel for an international audience. The Commonwealth Day theme for 2023 is 'Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future', highlighting the active commitment of



An unforgettable day of history and inspiration as Laurelhill Community College students visit Westminster Abbey for the King's coronation and even bumped into Ian Paisley Jr MP.



Principal Emma Loughridge with pupils visiting Westminster Abbey.



the family of nations to support the promotion of peace, prosperity and sustainability, especially through climate action, to secure a better future for young people and improve the lives of all Commonwealth citizens. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022, it was decided that this year would be dedicated to youth-led action for sustainable and inclusive development.

Commonwealth Day is marked annually on the second Monday in March. It is a celebration of the Commonwealth's rich diversity and an opportunity to promote understanding on global issues, international cooperation and the work of Commonwealth civil society organisations. Celebrations to mark Commonwealth Day take place around the world. The Service at Westminster Abbey in London is organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Further details can be found at www.royalcwssociety.org

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Through youth empowerment, education and high-level advocacy, the Society champions the importance of literacy, equality and inclusion, the environment, and connected communities across the Commonwealth's 56 member nations. The RCS's unique position within the Commonwealth family allows it to play a pivotal role in convening and connecting the Commonwealth's political and diplomatic representatives, civil society, business, and youth leaders, on a wide range of issues as well as to deliver highlights of the Commonwealth calendar, such as the annual Commonwealth Service

at Westminster Abbey and the High Commissioners' Banquet at Guildhall. Founded in 1868, the RCS is non-partisan, independent of governments and relies on public generosity to achieve its mission.

The Commonwealth was established with eight members in 1949. In 2023, it has 56 members with a combined population of over 2.5 billion people. It is a voluntary association of governments and peoples, built around shared language, institutions, challenges, aspirations and values. Commonwealth countries work together to promote common values: democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and opportunity for all. His Majesty The King is Head of the Commonwealth.





Small voices, big dreams! Even little learners know education cuts are wrong.



Putting education first! Jon Bleakney protesting in solidarity with fellow members.

point at the Belfast City Hall. There the Northern Ireland Committee of ICTU organised speakers from the teacher and other public service unions on action that day to speak to the gathered crowd. The strike received widespread media coverage with the Ulster Teachers' Union represented across the local press and media. It should be noted that further strikes could be called if their demands were not met. While the strike caused disruption to schools and students, it also drew attention to the important work done by teachers and the need for better pay. It remains

to be seen whether the Management Bodies and a re-established Northern Ireland Executive will address the issues raised by the UTU and our sister unions to prevent further industrial unrest in the months ahead.



Solidarity in action! Fighting for the future of education



Standing Strong for Education: Teachers take to the streets to demand better pay and resources for their students.



Solidarity in Action: Union members stand together to fight for fair wages and working conditions.

EDUCATION DEMANDS BETTER!

On Tuesday, 21st February 2023 members in the Ulster Teachers' Union took, for the first time in living memory, historical strike action in our dispute over pay. This then progressed to another strike, for a full day, on Wednesday 26th April 2023. [This strike was significant and saw all five teacher unions \(INTO, NAHT, NASUWT, NEU and the UTU\) taking joint and co-ordinated action.](#)

The Northern Ireland Teachers' Council has submitted a pay claim for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 academic years and an initial pay offer was resoundingly rejected in February

2022. The strike had a significant impact on schools across Northern Ireland, with many schools closing. Pickets across schools reported much support from passing pedestrians and traffic. Many parents have also expressed support for the teachers and their demands for better pay.

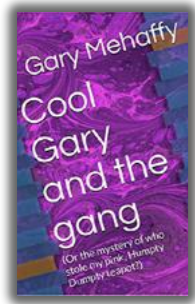
Recent significant pay awards to teachers in Scotland and Wales and a previous pay award in England for 2021 & 2022 mean that teachers across all pay scales in Northern Ireland are the worst paid in the UK. This is now contributing to a recruitment and retention crisis in the education sector. This is leading to difficulties already in getting specialist teachers in many post-primary subjects.

The February half-day strike saw rally points at 7 venues across the Province where UTU members congregated and listened to speakers from teacher and health unions. The April strike brought teachers from all areas to a central



United and determined, members of Ulster Teachers' Union gear up for a powerful strike rally, advocating for better education and standing up for their rights.





COOL GARY AND THE GANG

(Or the mystery of who stole my pink, Humpty Dumpty teapot?)

It is based (loosely) on actual experiences from my childhood. Though if anybody says that I ever flushed one of my sister's Sylvania Family dolls down the toilet, I'll deny it until the cows come home.....

STORY BY GARY MEHAFFY

Writing a book during lockdown wasn't exactly what I'd planned to do, but these things just have a habit of creeping up on you when you least expect it.....

I've always had an interest in acting and writing – I've been involved in plays from my days at Primary School, through to during and after University (including staging one that I wrote at the Island Centre in Lisburn in 2012).

I had played around with a story idea in my head for a couple of years, and during the second period of lockdown in 2021 I decided to begin to put pen to paper. With two small children on the go, getting around to completing it took a little longer than I thought! But in January of this year I decided to take the plunge and self-publish my first book – "Cool Gary and the gang (Or the mystery of who stole my pink, Humpty Dumpty teapot?)". It is (loosely) based on a collection of stories from my P7 year at Primary School.

It's aimed at children aged 9 to 11 – and allegedly it's very funny! Lots of my Year 5 class have copies, as well as several



GARY IS A YEAR 5 TEACHER IN BALLINDERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL IN LISBURN

Year 6 and 7 pupils – I've even had to autograph quite a few of them! They've all had great comments about it, which has been awesome. There have even been a few who have said that it's inspiring them to write more now, as well as want to become writers when they grow up, which is fantastic to hear! And there are quite a few adults that I know who have copies too – and they've enjoyed it as much as the kids have!

I suppose the blurb on the back cover best sums it up:

"You might want to take a look at this."

We all charged into the kitchen like a lion chasing its prey, and

while everybody looked at the broken glass, I noticed something else, even more important.

"My Humpty Dumpty teapot is missing!" I yelled out instinctively.

"I'm sorry, you what?" Weirdo retorted, trying not to laugh.

"Aw, honey, that's terrible," Big M. said, "I'm sure it's here somewhere."

"Hang on one minute!" Maxwell blurted out, while beginning to giggle. "Let me get this straight... Just for the record, you, Gary Mehaffy, the school football captain, have a Humpty Dumpty teapot?" The other two began to giggle too. "A Humpty Dumpty teapot?" he repeated.

And so began the story of who stole my Humpty Dumpty teapot.

My friends (Weirdo, Maxwell and Heidi) and I had some amazing, fun adventures in our last year at Primary School – and you'll never guess how we proved that the most annoying boy in school, Scotty Peters, stole the teapot! But, more importantly, as my mum told me, we learnt why "It's nice to be nice."

"Cool Gary and the gang" is available to buy on Amazon.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW ON AMAZON



UTU MEMBER NAMED

BEST PRIMARY TEACHER IN NORTHERN IRELAND AT EDUCATION AWARDS

AFermanagh teacher and UTU member has been named the overall 'Best Primary School Teacher in Northern Ireland' at the Families First Education Awards 2023.

Stacey Mitchell, a teacher in the ASD Unit at [Jones Memorial Primary School in Enniskillen](#), was announced as the winner of the Northern Ireland-wide accolade during the awards ceremony, which was held at the Titanic Centre, Belfast on Saturday, April 22.

During the ceremony, Stacey was congratulated on her outstanding teaching and hard work in the ASD Unit of the primary school.

Stacey – who was one of 15 finalists in the 'Best Teacher' category – shared her delight at winning the award, and noted her gratefulness for the leadership at Jones Memorial PS for helping her to get to where she is.

She said: "Even though it is a personal award, it highlights Jones Memorial PS. I would never have got to where I am if it wasn't for Jones Memorial PS, if it wasn't

for the leadership.

"I've been teaching in Jones Memorial for 12 years now and it's just a lovely accolade to get for what I've done."

There was more success for the area

"As a family school we celebrate success together and I would like to say that the whole team is responsible for this award.

"I am proud to be the principal of such an incredible school.

"We are jumping for joy for Mrs. Mitchell – what an achievement! We recognise her commitment and love of teaching, and we know that this permeates throughout the whole school community."

Delighted to be awarded 'Best Primary School in Co. Tyrone', principal of Fivemiletown PS, Florence Pryce, said the accolade is a "testament" to how the schools' Governors, PTFA, staff and parents work hard together to ensure all pupils receive an "outstanding

education providing a range of wonderful experiences to enrich the life of every child".

The school also received special recognition awards for Florence in the category of 'Best Principal', and vice-principal Heather Graydon in the category of 'Best Teacher'.



as Jones Memorial PS and St. Mary's PS, Brookeborough were named as the joint 'Best Primary School in Fermanagh', and Fivemiletown PS and Nursery won 'Best Primary School in Tyrone'.

Principal of Jones Memorial PS, Sandra Isherwood, said: "We could not be prouder of the whole Jones Memorial team.



Let's get saving...

Exclusive deals for UTU members



Have YOU logged into Membership Plus in a while?

You could be missing out on significant savings at local restaurants, shops, hotels, leisure centres and more across Northern Ireland.

Family days out...

Airport parking...

Birthday gifts...

Holiday clothes...

It all costs less with Membership Plus!



Is your card registered?

2022-24 cards were distributed in September. Please follow the leaflet instructions to **activate your card** if you haven't already.



www.membershipplus.co.uk

Expires: 31/12/2024



5 060303 190001

Now with **over 2,000 discounts**, Membership Plus can help you save money and stretch your budget further, to still enjoy the things you love. #MemberBenefits

Stay up to date

Follow Membership Plus on FB to be the first to know of new offers!



See how much you can save...

Venue	Offer	Example Use	RRP	Saving
Airtastic Entertainment	20% Discount	2 games of bowling for 7	£77.00	£15.40
Bath Shack	10% Discount	New bathroom suite	£899.00	£89.90
Domino's Pizza	33% Discount	Treat night takeaway	£55.00	£18.15
Karen & Co	10% Discount	4-day staycation	£600.90	£60.90
Lusty Beg Island	15% Discount	2-night escape	£278.00	£41.70
McCausland Car Park	10% Discount	A week's airport parking	£70.20	£7.20
Mountpanther Farm	20% Discount	Admission for 5	£44.50	£8.90
<i>Offers & prices correct at time of print.</i>			Total saving using just 7 offers	£ 242.15!

New Savings

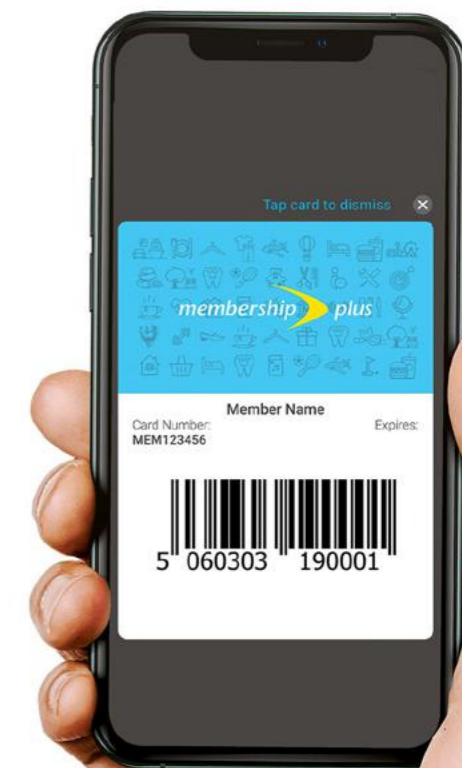
- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Aircoach | 10% off | 705X route |
| Andrew Morris Golf | 10% off | Online |
| Betty's Lounge | 10% off | Ballyclare |
| Binevenagh Adventures | 20% off | Limavady |
| Decor Interiors | 10% off | Newtonwabbey |
| Dino's Den | 20% off | Newtownards |
| Fitness Hub | 20% off | Carrickfergus |
| Furniture Store | 10% off | Cookstown |
| Green Chilli Restaurant | 20% off | Bangor |
| Mad Hatter Café | 10% off | Belfast |
| Rima's Restaurant | 10% off | Carrickfergus |
| The Blind Cobbler | 15% off | Omagh |
| The Halfway House | 15% off | Banbridge |
| The Oaks Lodges | 10% off | Derry/Londonderry |
| Tile Rosso | Up to 25% | Dundonald |

Please read the offer details on the Membership Plus app or website, including T&Cs, before availing of an offer.

Happy Saving!



Download the Membership Plus app if you haven't already, to save on the go & access your digital card!



www.membershipplus.co.uk



membership plus





ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

Empowering Educators, Shaping the Future at the Roe Park Hotel

▶ **ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES**

Conference recognises the benefits which on-line learning platforms have brought to both teaching and learning. Conference is alarmed about the ways in which these have become abused by some parents.

Conference calls on the Education Authority to draw up a charter of fair use which all schools will be required to adhere to.



AUDREY DEMPSEY, WESTERN AA



JACQUIE WHITE, GENERAL SECRETARY



LEIGH MCKAY, CARRICKABBEY & LARNE BRANCH



DAVID THOMPSON, SOUTHERN AA

◀ **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Conference is alarmed at the high incidence of teachers and principals being subjected to inappropriate use of Social Media. Conference demands that the employing authorities implement their duty of care and seek, as a matter of urgency, to put consistent and appropriate procedures in place to address this growing unacceptable practice within local and wider school communities.

The Ulster Teachers' Union Annual Conference recently took place at the Roe Park Hotel in Limavady, and was attended by 250 guests and delegates. This annual event is an opportunity for teachers to come together to discuss and vote on resolutions that affect teaching in Northern Ireland. This year's Conference covered a wide range of topics, including online learning platforms, social media, class sizes in nursery, assisted pregnancy, maternity, paternity, adoption and shared parental leave,

breastfeeding, funding for educational psychologists, special educational needs, operation encompass, foundation stage classroom assistants, appropriate school settings with sufficient funding, numeracy support, additional funding for math outreach support, disability, menopause, area planning, leadership workload, human resources, support services for schools and children, pastoral care, technology in schools, and electric vehicles.

One of the key topics discussed was the use of online learning platforms and social media in education.

Delegates debated the benefits and drawbacks of these platforms, and voted to recommend that schools should use them in a responsible and safe manner. The Conference also addressed the issue of class sizes in nursery, and called for the government to provide additional funding to reduce class sizes and improve the quality of education for young children.

Another important issue discussed was the provision of support for teachers who are pregnant, adopting, or taking maternity or paternity leave. Delegates voted to

recommend that schools should provide adequate support for teachers during these times, including flexible working arrangements and additional leave if needed. The Conference also discussed the importance of supporting breastfeeding mothers, and called for schools to provide appropriate facilities and time for breastfeeding.

Other topics covered at the Conference included the need for additional funding for educational psychologists and special educational needs, the importance of operation encompass in supporting children who are exposed to domestic abuse, and the role of

foundation stage classroom assistants in providing support for young children. The Conference also called for appropriate school settings with sufficient funding, and for additional support for numeracy and math outreach programs.

The evening session of the Conference saw the passing of the President's chain from Louise Creelman to Lynelle Fenton. A new Vice-President, Leigh McKay from Ballyclare Secondary School, was also installed. These appointments reflect the ongoing commitment of the Ulster Teachers' Union to promoting

the interests of teachers and improving the quality of education in Northern Ireland.

In conclusion, the Ulster Teachers' Unions Conference provided an important opportunity for teachers to come together to discuss and vote on resolutions affecting teaching in Northern Ireland. The range of topics covered at the Conference reflects the diverse challenges facing teachers in the modern education system, and highlights the ongoing need for ongoing support and funding to ensure that teachers can continue to provide high-quality education for all students.

▶ CLASS SIZES IN NURSERY

Conference calls on the Department of Education to re-evaluate and improve the staff-pupil ratios in nursery settings.

The current class size of 26 with one teacher and one assistant is not meeting the increasingly complex needs of the children in our nursery settings.

▶ ASSISTED PREGNANCY

Conference recognises the changing trends regarding embarking on family life in Northern Ireland and recognises the importance of appropriate support for both parents. Conference calls for the establishment of procedures to allow both parents to be fully involved in the assisted pregnancy process where it is required.



HEATHER MILLIGAN, SOUTH EASTERN AA



STEPHEN MCCORD, DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY

▶ MATERNITY PATERNITY, ADOPTION & SHARED PARENTAL LEAVE

Conference calls on DE to make urgent changes to the maternity, paternity and adoption benefits of teachers, making it more comparable with other public sectors/services, and promote the opportunities available under the shared parental leave scheme.

▶ LEADERSHIP WORKLOAD

Conference calls upon the need for the Education Authority to make radical changes to reduce the excessive workload still being placed upon senior leaders and principals in schools. The working school environment should reflect and support the health and well-being of all Leaders and Conference demands that EA address this current workload, which is having such a detrimental impact in schools.



DR LISA WILSON, SENIOR ECONOMIST
NEVIN ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NERI)



AARON DAVIDSON, ORCHARD COUNTY



ETAIN HALL-CALLAGHAN, FIT



JANICE MULLAN, FOYLE BRANCH

▶ FUNDING FOR EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Conference calls on the Education Authority to urgently look at the funding arrangements of Educational Psychology support for schools. This area has been eroded in recent years. We now see a post-code lottery where children in an area could be forgotten or ignored for long periods of time due to a lack of personnel or funding in that region.

Every child should have equal access and timely interventions in place. Conference calls for this matter to be addressed by the employing authorities.



STEPHEN CUMPER, SOUTH EASTERN AA



PAULINE HURST, SOUTH WEST BRANCH

▶ SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Conference calls upon the Education Authority to review current provision and implement a manageable, practical and realistic service for SEN guidance and support to schools. Conference is alarmed at the ever increasing needs and requests for SEN referrals, psychologist reports, visits, annual reviews, PLPs and the rising stress and time factor levels that this places on teachers, SEN Leaders, Senior Leaders and Principals to obtain, process and manage effectively the information and action required in working practice within schools.

▶ ELECTRIC VEHICLE GREEN STRATEGY

Conference calls on the Department of Education to devise an Electric Vehicle/Green strategy that supports employees and takes cognisance of the Government's Proposal that no internal combustion engine cars will be sold after 2030.

▶ OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Conference deplores the continuing upsurge in the rates of Domestic Abuse in Northern Ireland. Conference calls upon the DE, as a matter of urgency, to facilitate the full and proper embedding of education around Domestic Abuse into the curriculum with the necessary funding, time and resources made available to schools. Conference further calls on EA to fund the resourcing required to roll out the spiral curriculum necessary for 'Operation Encompass' to ensure the protection of our pupils in future society.

▶ FOUNDATION STAGE CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Conference recognises the need for additional classroom support at Foundation Stage in order to fully deliver the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Conference calls on DE to review the provision of Classrooms Assistants at Foundation Stage and ensure that the funding and resource is of a level which ensures that each and every child has full access to the curriculum as it is laid down.



SAM KINKAID, PSNI CYBERCRIME UNIT



REBECCA STEVENSON, FIT

▶ APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SETTINGS WITH SUFFICIENT FUNDING

Conference notes the exponential growth in children requiring support for a range of additional needs in our schools.

Conference calls on DE to urgently review how children and young people with SEN are placed in the appropriate setting based on their need, and commit to and deliver sufficient funding to allow for the required staffing and resources to ensure that every child can meet their full potential.

▶ DISABILITY

Conference welcomes the positive development of a culture in our schools which enables teachers to access support for their disability with a greater degree of confidence.

Conference calls on the Education Authority to ensure that all teachers are fully informed of appropriate support and are facilitated in accessing said support in a timely and easy manner.



JILL RAVEY, ORCHARD COUNTY



ANDREA BRADLEY, GENERAL SECRETARY EIS

▶ MENOPAUSE

In a workforce which is predominantly female, Conference welcomes the growing awareness of the impact of the menopause on women in the workplace, and the work which has taken place thus far towards raising awareness and providing support. Conference calls on the employing authorities to ensure that school specific menopause policies are now mainstreamed within the school system and that every female teacher has access to appropriate understanding and support at point of need.

▶ PASTORAL CARE

Responsibility for pastoral care and child protection across our schools is a demanding and challenging role. Conference commends our teachers, school leaders, year heads and designated teachers for their commitment in this area. Conference calls on the employing authorities to ensure that Principals and Boards of Governors have adequate funding and time given to ensure that pastoral leaders are not contravening time regulations or impacting on other time restraints due to the pressures demanded by this role.



ASHLEY KNOX, CARRICKABBEY & LARNE BRANCH



GILLIAN DUNLOP, HONORARY TREASURER

▶ NUMERACY SUPPORT

Conference notes that many pathways into education and employment for young people require a certain level of achievement in English and Mathematics. Conference further notes that relevant support is made available to pupils who require assistance in Literacy but not those who require assistance in Numeracy, thus impeding progress for those with additional numeracy needs at the earlier stages of education. Conference calls on The Education Authority School Improvement Service to implement a Numeracy Support Service for our pupils similar to that which is offered by EALS.

▶ APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SETTINGS WITH SUFFICIENT FUNDING

Conference notes the exponential growth in children requiring support for a range of additional needs in our schools. Conference calls on DE to urgently review how children and young people with SEN are placed in the appropriate setting based on their need, and commit to and deliver sufficient funding to allow for the required staffing and resources to ensure that every child can meet their full potential.



ALISON STEEN, EX-PRESIDENT



JUNE MURPHY, CAUSEWAY BRANCH



PAUL SMITH, CARRICKABBEY & LARNE BRANCH



JILLIAN JONES, MID-ANTRIM BRANCH

▶ EDUCATION AUTHORITY - HR

Conference has grave concerns about the lack of support available to Governors and school leaders from the Education Authority in relation to the Human Resources issues which arise in schools. Conference believes that the application of agreed procedures in the absence of appropriate training and/or advice has created unnecessary stress and anxiety in what are already difficult situations.

Conference calls on the Education Authority to ensure that:

- School leaders and Governors have ready access to consistent HR advice
- Appropriate training is made available and the importance of participating before engaging in TNC procedures is properly outlined and promoted, and uptake is monitored



LYNELLE FENTON, VICE-PRESIDENT



MARK CREELMAN, CAUSEWAY BRANCH

▶ AREA PLANNING

Conference calls on the Education Authority to urgently look at the funding arrangements of Educational Psychology support for schools. This area has been eroded in recent years. We now see a post-code lottery where children in an area could be forgotten or ignored for long periods of time due to a lack of personnel or funding in that region. Every child should have equal access and timely interventions in place. Conference calls for this matter to be addressed by the employing authorities.

▶ SEND FUNDING

The pressures of austerity and the lack of a Stormont Executive means that funding in the area of Special Educational Needs has eroded over a number of years. Time, resources, CPD and funding are necessary for our SENCOs and we demand better for our pupils. Conference demands that the Education Authority urgently increases available funding to implement SENCO duties and also to have sufficient non-contact time to fulfil the ever-increasing demands of this role to provide appropriate support for pupils with SEND.

▶ SUPPORTING SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN

Conference despairs at the lack of access to support services and the associated waiting times which schools and children have to endure to get the help they need.

The situation is only due to be greatly exacerbated by the recent announcement of further cost cutting exercises demanded of the Education Authority.

Conference demands that the relevant decision-making and funding bodies act as a matter of urgency to invest in these services and ensure that all of our children, regardless of need, have access to the appropriate support and resource at point of need.



JOY CARROTHERS, SOUTH WEST BRANCH



CARNEY CUMPER, SOUTH EASTERN AA

▶ TECHNOLOGY

Conference has concerns about the lack of appropriate technology that can be used to support children's learning in the area of ICT. Significant funding is required to enable schools to purchase technology such as interactive whiteboards and iPads/ Chromebooks or laptops for children to use. Despite the significant funding provided by the Department of Education to implement the roll out of MS Surface Pros to teaching staff, schools find themselves unable to appropriately resource digital technology in the classroom.

It is vital to have additional money, ring fenced, to purchase technology such as interactive whiteboards, ways to wirelessly connect Surface Pros to interactive whiteboards and a realistic ratio of devices to children in lessons. These have become essentials that some schools simply cannot afford.

Conference demands that these issues are addressed as a matter of urgency.



CALLUM HANNIGAN, CAUSEWAY BRANCH



JILL JOHNSTON, CARRICKABBEY & LARNE BRANCH



PROTECTING OUR SCHOOLS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

How Schools Can Shield Themselves Against Cyber Crime?



The education sector is increasingly being targeted by cybercriminals, who use ransomware to prevent schools from retrieving their own data and then demand cash to restore access. With such attacks resulting in months of disruption and distress, what can be done to minimise the risks?

IDENTIFY YOUR ESSENTIAL DATA
The first step in backing up your data is to identify your essential data. This typically includes documents, photos, emails, contacts, and calendars, which are usually stored in a few common folders on your computer, phone, tablet, or network. Knowing

what data you need to back up is crucial, as it will help you avoid wasting time and resources on irrelevant data.

KEEP YOUR BACKUP SEPARATE

It's important to keep your backup separate from your computer or device holding the original copy. This means storing backups on a USB stick, separate drive, or a different computer, and making sure they're not permanently connected to the original copy. Ransomware and other malware can easily move to attached storage, infecting your backup and leaving you with nothing to recover from.

CONSIDER CLOUD STORAGE
Cloud storage is a cost-effective and efficient way to store backups. Using a cloud storage service provider means your data is physically separate from your location, reducing the risk of loss from theft or fire. Most providers offer a limited amount of storage space for

free and larger storage capacity for minimal costs to small businesses. However, not all service providers are the same, and it's important to read the NCSC's Cloud Security Guidance before choosing a provider.

READ CLOUD SECURITY GUIDANCE

By handing over significant parts of your IT services to a cloud service provider, you'll benefit from specialist expertise that smaller organisations would struggle to justify in terms of cost. However, it's essential to read the Cloud Security Guidance to help you evaluate service providers' services and what they can offer. This guidance will help you choose a provider with good security practices built-in.

MAKE BACKING UP A REGULAR PART OF YOUR BUSINESS

Backups should be part of your everyday business routine, and the majority of network or cloud storage solutions now allow you to make backups automatically. Automated backups save time and ensure you have the latest version



The Police Service of Northern Ireland's Cyber Protect Officer, Detective Constable Sam Kinkaid speaking at UTU Annual Conference about the dangers and preventative measures schools can put in place to protect themselves.

of your files when you need them. Many off-the-shelf backup solutions are affordable and easy to set up. However, when choosing a solution, you'll need to consider how much data you need to back up and how quickly you need to be able to access the data following any incident.

In conclusion, backing up your business-critical data is essential to ensure your business can still function following an incident such as flood, fire, physical damage, or theft. By following these tips, you can protect your business from potential data loss and recover quickly from any incidents.

Malicious software (also known as 'malware') is software or web content that can harm your organisation, such as the recent WannaCry outbreak. The most well-known form of malware is viruses, which are self-copying programs that infect legitimate software.

Here are 5 free and easy-to-implement tips that can help prevent malware from damaging your organisation:

INSTALL (AND TURN ON) ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE:

Antivirus software, which is often included for free within popular operating systems, should be used on all computers and laptops. For your office equipment, you can pretty much click 'enable', and you're instantly safer. Smartphones and tablets might require a different approach and if configured in accordance with the NCSC's EUD guidance, separate antivirus software might not be necessary.

PREVENT STAFF FROM DOWNLOADING DODGY APPS:

You should only download apps for mobile phones and tablets from manufacturer-approved stores (like Google Play or Apple App Store). These apps are checked to provide a certain level of protection from malware that might cause harm. You should prevent staff from downloading third-party apps from unknown vendors/sources, as these will not have been checked. Staff accounts should only have enough access required to perform their role, with extra permissions (i.e. for

administrators) only given to those who need it. When administrative accounts are created, they should only be used for that specific task, with standard user accounts used for general work.

KEEP ALL YOUR IT EQUIPMENT UP TO DATE (PATCHING):

For all your IT equipment (so tablets, smartphones, laptops, and PCs), make sure that the software and firmware is always kept up to date with the latest versions from software developers, hardware suppliers, and vendors. Applying these updates (a process known as patching) is one of the most important things you can do to improve security - the IT version of eating your fruit and veg. Operating systems, programs, phones, and apps should all be set to 'automatically update' wherever this is an option. At some point, these updates will no longer be available (as the product reaches the end of its supported life), at which point you should consider replacing it with a modern alternative. For more information on applying updates, refer to the NCSC's guidance on Vulnerability Management.

CONTROL HOW USB DRIVES (AND MEMORY CARDS) CAN BE USED:

We all know how tempting it is to use USB drives or memory cards to transfer files between organisations and people. However, it only takes a single cavalier user to inadvertently plug in an infected stick (such as a USB drive containing malware) to devastate the whole organisation. When drives and cards are openly shared, it becomes hard to track what they contain, where they've been, and who has used them. You can reduce the likelihood of infection by blocking access to physical ports for most users, using antivirus tools, and only allowing approved drives and cards to be used within your organisation - and nowhere else. Make these directives part of your company policy to prevent your organisation from being exposed to unnecessary risks. You can also ask staff to transfer files using alternative means (such as by email or cloud storage), rather than via USB.

SWITCH ON YOUR FIREWALL:

Firewalls create a 'buffer zone' between your own network and external networks (such as the Internet). Most popular operating systems now include a firewall, so it may simply be a case of switching this on. For more detailed information on using firewalls, refer to the Network Security section of the NCSC's 10 Steps to Cyber Security.

Mobile technology is now an integral part of modern business, with sensitive data being stored on tablets and smartphones. However, these devices need even more protection than traditional desktop computers since they can easily leave the safety of the office or home. To help keep your mobile devices secure, here are five quick tips to follow:

Enable password protection or fingerprint recognition to lock your device and prevent unauthorised access. Set up free web-based tools that allow you to track, lock, wipe, and retrieve data stored on lost or stolen devices. Consider using mobile device management software to set up devices to a standard configuration. Keep devices up-to-date by installing regular security updates from manufacturers like Windows, Android, and iOS. Regularly update the applications installed on your device to patch any security holes discovered by the software developers. Avoid connecting to unknown Wi-Fi hotspots, and instead use your mobile network, tethering, or a VPN for added security.

Remember that passwords are an essential tool for securing your devices and sensitive data. Ensure that you use complex passwords or fingerprint recognition, keep devices and applications up-to-date, and avoid unknown Wi-Fi hotspots to keep your devices and data secure.



THE UK HAD THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CYBER CRIME VICTIMS PER MILLION INTERNET USERS AT 4783 IN 2022 – UP 40% OVER 2020 FIGURES.

SOURCE: NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE

5 TIPS FOR BETTER PASSWORD SECURITY

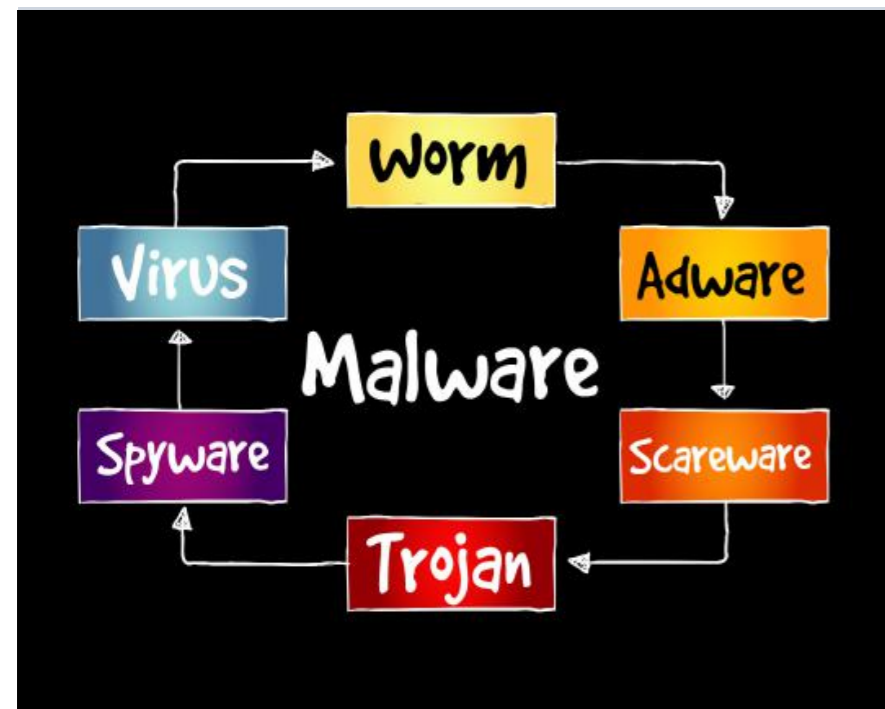
In today's digital world, passwords are the primary means of securing our personal and professional data. Unfortunately, not all passwords are created equal, and many individuals and organisations still use weak passwords, leaving themselves vulnerable to cyber attacks. Here are five tips for better password security:

TIP 1: Make sure you switch on password protection. Use a screenlock password, PIN, or other authentication method like fingerprint or face unlock. If you are using fingerprint or face unlock, set up a long password that is

difficult to guess. Ensure that your office equipment, such as laptops and PCs, use an encryption product with a PIN or FileVault to start up.

TIP 2: Use 2-step verification for 'important' accounts. Two-step verification adds an extra layer of security for not much extra effort. 2SV requires two different methods to 'prove' your identity before you can use a service, generally a password plus one other method. This could be a code that's sent to your smartphone or a code generated from a bank's card reader.

TIP 3: Avoid using predictable passwords. Make sure staff are given actionable information on setting passwords that is easy for them to understand. A good rule is 'make sure that somebody who knows you



From phishing emails to drive-by downloads, malware attacks come in many forms. Stay vigilant and educate yourself on the different methods cybercriminals use to target you and your devices.

well couldn't guess your password in 20 attempts.' Avoid using the most common passwords, which criminals can easily guess.

Tip 4: Help your staff cope with 'password overload.' Provide secure storage so staff can write down passwords for important accounts and keep them safe (but not with the device itself). Staff will forget passwords, so make sure they can reset their own passwords easily. Consider using password managers, which can create and store passwords for you.

TIP 5: Change all default passwords. Change all default passwords before devices are distributed to staff, and regularly check devices and software to detect unchanged default passwords. One of the most common mistakes is not changing the manufacturers' default passwords that smartphones, laptops, and other types of equipment are issued with.

While implementing these tips can significantly improve password security, it is still essential to be aware of other types of cyber attacks, such as phishing. In a typical phishing attack, scammers send fake emails to thousands of people, asking for sensitive information or containing

links to bad websites. It is crucial to educate your staff on how to identify and avoid phishing attacks.

In conclusion, password security is critical in protecting personal and organisational data. By implementing these five tips, you can significantly reduce the risk of a cyber attack. Remember to stay vigilant and always be on the lookout for potential threats.

Phishing attacks can cause severe damage to businesses, and it is essential to take steps to protect your organisation from these attacks. Here are five tips that can help you reduce the impact of successful attacks:

CONFIGURE ACCOUNTS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS:

Ensure that staff accounts have the least privilege required to perform their jobs, and don't browse the web or check emails from an account with Administrator privileges. Additionally, use two-factor authentication (2FA) on important accounts.

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU OPERATE:

Consider ways in which someone might target your organisation and make sure that

your staff understands how to spot requests that are out of the ordinary. Be cautious of unsolicited emails and verify an individual's identity before taking any action.

CHECK FOR THE OBVIOUS SIGNS OF PHISHING:

Look for warning signs like poor spelling and grammar, emails that are not addressed to you by name, or those that contain a veiled threat.

REPORT ALL ATTACKS:

Encourage your staff to ask for help if they suspect a successful phishing attack has occurred. Do not punish staff for being caught out and report the attack through the Action Fraud website or contacting the PSNI's Cyber Crime Department.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH NEW PHISHING TECHNIQUES:

Stay informed about new phishing techniques and educate your staff about them to ensure that they stay vigilant and up-to-date.

By implementing these tips, you can reduce the impact of successful phishing attacks on your business and protect your organisation's sensitive information.



Appointed Advisers for UTU Members

RETIREMENT PLANNING | INVESTMENT PLANNING
PROTECTION PLANNING | MORTGAGE ADVICE

Contact us today to arrange your complimentary consultation.

T: 028 9065 5305 E: info@platinumgroup.co.uk

www.platinumgroup.co.uk

10 Top Tips for ... KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM CYBER CRIME

We all want to continue being informed and inspired by the ever-expanding capabilities of the internet. But we also need to be able to safeguard ourselves against the growing amount of online hazards. Knowing what is fact, understanding what dangers exist and taking appropriate steps can go a long way towards protecting yourself and your family. National Online Safety has collaborated with the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Cyber Crime Unit to compile 10 pointers to help you keep your children safe from cyber crime.

- 1. Spot Phishing Bait**
Phishing messages are untargeted mass emails asking for sensitive information (e.g. usernames, passwords, bank details) or encouraging recipients to visit a fake website. It's safest to learn the warning signs of phishing and increase your child's awareness. Too good to be true? Spelling or punctuation errors? Odd sense of urgency? These are all red flags. Don't click on links or follow demands: if you're unsure, contact the official company directly online to enquire further.
- 2. Don't Over-Share**
Is your child sharing too much on social media? Do they post things about their private life, upload images of your home, or discuss their friendships and relationships online? Criminals will gather this information and may try to use it for identity theft or other offences such as fraud. To combat this, ensure your child's privacy settings mean they are only sharing information with family and close friends. Use parental controls where appropriate.
- 3. Encourage Strong Passwords**
Weak passwords make it faster and easier for someone to gain access to your online accounts or get control of your device – giving them a route to your personal information. For a strong password, national guidance recommends using three random words (e.g. bottlegaragepylons). Consider paying for your child to access a password manager. Encourage them to have a separate password for their email account. Ensure the whole family uses two-factor authentication where possible.
- 4. Stay Updated**
People often put off installing updates to apps or software because they don't feel it's necessary, it can be time consuming, or could cause problems with programmes they rely on. But updates help protect users from recently discovered vulnerabilities to malware. You can usually set them to run automatically – encourage your child to select this option. Ensure updates are installed as soon as possible after you're notified they're available.
- 5. Back up Your Data**
Some cyber attacks can lead to the theft or deletion of important (and possibly sensitive) data or loss of files (like photos and videos) that can't be replaced. Backing up your data to the cloud – or to another device – will help prevent data loss if you ever become the victim of a cyber attack. Where possible, set your child's devices to back up automatically. Also encourage them to back up their data prior to installing any updates.
- 6. Be Wary of Public WiFi**
Free public WiFi is commonplace – but it's often not secure and sends unencrypted data via the network. A hacker on the same network could access personal data (like financial information) without you even realising they'd done so. To avoid this, suggest to your child that they use their 3G or 4G mobile data when they're out and about, rather than free WiFi. Consider purchasing a VPN (Virtual Private Network) where possible.
- 7. Take Care When Chatting**
Criminals may look to manipulate others online and coerce them into using their talents or cyber skills for unethical means. Try to get your child to be open about who they are talking to online. Communication tools such as Discord are popular among gamers – but be cautious of the other people using them, and ensure you know who your child is chatting with.
- 8. Recognise Warning Signs**
Often, budding cyber experts will relish the challenge of testing themselves or earning recognition from peers for their exploits. Even principled 'white-hat' hackers will look to test their skills online. If you think your child is interested in hacking, try to understand what their motivation is. You could encourage their participation in ethical competitions such as bug bounties.
- 9. Understand Their Motivations**
Those being influenced online to use their skills unethically may display certain key warning signs. Sudden evidence of new-found wealth (unexplained new clothes or devices, for example), secrecy around their online behaviour or boasting of new online friendships are all causes for concern. If in doubt, refer through to your regional cyber crime team.
- 10. Know the Consequences**
Many young people may feel that hacking is essentially a light-hearted prank, and not especially serious. So make sure your child is aware of the implications of a conviction under the Computer Misuse Act – not only the possibility of a criminal record, but also lifelong travel restrictions and damage to their future career or educational prospects.

COMMUNICATION SUMMARY

FACTS AND FIGURES ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS



Top Tweet **7187** IMPRESSIONS



SOCIAL MEDIA



2000 FOLLOWERS & GROWING
68.8K impressions over 90 days

25 clips or webinars now online



OVER **2,500** FOLLOWERS!

Find us on

TOP REEL

1 **1825** VIEWS



March - May

Reach - **21.1K** Visits - **13.7K**
Top post on 25 April 2023 with 114 reactions and 34 shares.



ACCOUNT REACH

2411 UNIQUE ACCOUNTS
(March to May)



PRESS MEDIA

- Belfast Telegraph
- Irish News
- Belfast Newsletter
- Belfast Live
- Ballymoney Chronicle
- Tyrone Constitution

- BBC Good Morning Ulster
- BBC Evening Extra
- BBC Nolan Show
- BBC Talkback
- U105 Frank Mitchell
- BBC Newsline
- UTV Live

RADIO AND TV

UTU Member, Simon Hylands, has been nominated for Arts Personality of the Year at the Ulster Tatler Awards 2023. Simon, 37 from Lurgan, is a teacher and UTU member and is passionate about the arts both inside and outside of school. In February 2015, Simon started a local theatre organisation in Lurgan. Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre is a grassroots led, cross-community theatre organisation dedicated to the promotion of equality through arts activities and initiatives which are all run entirely voluntarily. The group's inaugural production was a play with just 10 members, but since then the group has grown from strength to strength with over 70 members onstage on for a musical themed concert in September, and a double cast and two chorus' for their production of Sleeping Beauty in December - Lurgan's annual panto which attracted over 2000 attendees.

Throughout the year, the group stage a musical, junior musical, concert, play, and pantomime - as well as showcases, a summer scheme, workshops, social nights, fundraisers, and drama classes for children. The aim in creating the group was to bring together a divided town, which reflects many of the divisions that still exist between communities today in Northern Ireland, and they are making great progress.

Simon spearheads most of the group's activities and has attracted over £150,000 in community grants over the course of the group's lifetime towards the projects they carry out. Most recently, their production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang performed at the Marketplace Theatre in Armagh, featured a flying car. The show saw over 50 performers onstage and 1,400 audience members over 4 shows - 3 of which were entirely sold out. Currently, almost 60 children and young people are working towards a production of Matilda Jr, taking place at Lurgan Town



Simon Hylands, Innovative Teacher and Arts Advocate, Nominated for the Ulster Tatler Arts Personality of the Year Award

UTU Member's Dedication to the Arts Earns Nomination for Personality of the Year Award

Hall in June.

The group has extended to offer local LGBTQ+ community centred projects, training for members in a variety of areas, and have just renovated their new studio on Carnegie Street in Lurgan, which Simon project-managed with builder, Chris. Outside Building Bridges and school (where he has just started working with the school choir), Simon enjoys trips up the North Coast with his partner, loves meeting friends over a coffee, and is one half of The Brick Guys

NI, running LEGO Exhibitions across Northern Ireland.

If you would like to support Simon in his bid for Arts Personality of the Year, please visit the Ulster Tatler Awards website and pop his name in section 15 with a short sentence or two about why you think he deserves to move on to the next stage.

CLICK HERE TO VOTE

CONTACT US
02890 662216
OFFICE@UTU.EDU
WWW.UTU.EDU



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

A Night at the movies' hit the stage of Lisnagelvin Primary School at the end of March 2023.

A spectacular show with 146 pupils enrobed in costume, sharing an exciting musical journey navigating the audience through many

wonderful movies. The stage was an array of bright colour, tantalizing drama and amazing song.....a show not to be missed!

Lisnagelvin Primary School, in the Waterside of Londonderry, was proud to have their Key Stage 1 team plan, stage and produce such a wonderful show, particularly when these pupils had been deprived of so many enriching experiences normally incorporated into weekly Music and Drama classes within school due to the Covid pandemic. The pupils certainly did not portray any deficiencies on stage, in fact, the audience was engulfed in the magic and were left in awe of the quality and high standard of performance, scripted and directed by the school's own fabulous

staff Key Stage 1 team and Mrs Caldwell, Music Director.

Mr Torrens, the school Principal, reflected on the amazing contribution made by each and every child- sharing their smiles, their enjoyment, their amazing skills in dance or drama (some even through comedy), or indeed, the musical capabilities, all of which made the show spectacular.

"With significant pressures on our schools, it is difficult for school leaders to expect and expect more from our staff, particularly with Industrial action featuring within the educational vision. Despite this, and beyond expectation,

Lisnagelvin Primary Schools staff went above and beyond, providing the pupils with experiences and memories they will hold onto for a life time. For this, I am extremely grateful."

The Key Stage 1 production has instilled a wonderful sense of community spirit within the school, allowing parents, family members and friends to experience connections with staff and pupils alike.



25% OFF LEGAL FEES*

*includes legal fees only. Does not include disbursements.

For Conveyancing, Family Work and Wills and Probate - QUOTE 'UTU' WHEN MAKING YOUR ENQUIRY



Your Trusted Legal Advisors

We are a dynamic firm of solicitors in Belfast City Centre, with an excellent reputation for providing first-class legal services to commercial and private clients throughout Northern Ireland.



Client-Centric Solutions

We provide a wide range of legal services, the core of which is commercially based. We are always happy to discuss new cases with prospective clients and welcome enquiries whether in person or through telephone or email. Our team are available for consultation by appointment in the office, or by arrangement at a client's home or business both during and after office hours.



(0)28 90 326 878



law@sdmsolicitors.com

WWW.SDMSOLICITORS.COM 



Explore *the* North Coast

SET AMIDST THE GORGEOUS SURROUNDINGS OF THE ROE VALLEY COUNTRY PARK, **ROE PARK RESORT** IS ONE OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S PREMIER GOLF AND SPA RESORTS.

118 BEDROOMS | 2 RESTAURANTS | 2 BARS
SELF CATERING LODGES | SPA & HEALTH SUITE
18 HOLE PARKLAND GOLF COURSE
DRIVING RANGE | GOLF ACADEMY

★★★★
ROE PARK
Resort

STAY | DINE | SPA | GOLF
ROEPARKRESORT.COM



ULSTER TEACHERS' UNION

GOLF TOURNAMENT 2023

Sponsored by:

Platinum 

ROCKMOUNT GOLF CLUB

28 DRUMALIG ROAD, BELFAST, BT8 8EQ

ENTRY FEE
£40.00

(INCLUDES TWO COURSE MEAL)

REGISTRATION
9.30AM

TEE OFF
10.00AM

THIS EVENT IS
OPEN TO NON
UTU MEMBERS

SIGN UP BY CONTACTING
US ON EVENTS@UTU.EDU



68%

of our customers
paid less than
£350 for their
cover!*



Visit cornmarketinsurance.co.uk/teachers-car-insurance

We compare quotes so you can save on your cover.

Trustpilot



Don't forget to tell your **spouse or partner** that they too can get the same great insurance premiums from us!

Call 028 90 44 5031



Car
insurance



Home
insurance



Motorbike
insurance

*68% of Cornmarket customers paid less than £350 for their car insurance between 01/10/22 & 31/12/22.

Trustpilot score correct as at 04/01/2023 based on 657 reviews. Terms, conditions & acceptance criteria apply. Cornmarket Insurance Services Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd. Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd is a member of the Irish Life Group Ltd, which is part of the Great-West Lifeco Group of companies. Cornmarket Insurance Services Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) registration number 308099. You may check this on the Financial Services Register by visiting the FCA's website or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768. Cornmarket Insurance Services, registered in Northern Ireland, company number NI030039. Registered Office: First Floor, Boucher Plaza, 4 – 6 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6HR.

19371 UTU Car Insurance Advert