



ISSU
IRISH SECOND-LEVEL
STUDENTS' UNION

ISSU Policy Book

Adopted by An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2023

Last Amended in June 2023 following An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2023

Policy 1	
Adopted in April 2023 - Expires in April 2026	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Gráinne Ní Ailín
ISSU Supports	The ISSU supports the policies of Conradh na Gaeilge regarding the teaching of the Irish language to allow for consistency in the work of the ISSU.
Rationale	<p>1. To allow for the continuity and consistency of the work of the Oifigeach na Gaeilge, there has to be consistency from one Coiste to the next to allow for long term development.</p> <p>2. To protect the Coiste if there is no Oifigeach elected so the Coiste has a baseline and a guideline to follow in regards to Irish Language, Oifigeach na Gaeilge races have been uncontested since 2019, there is a high risk that the role may not be filled in the future. This does not limit or constrict the Union as both organisations are committed to achieving the same goal - high quality Irish language education for all, Conradh na Gaeilge are best placed to draft policy on Irish language education, and it is unlikely that ISSU will ever have the same resources to mandate policy as well as them.</p>

Policy 2	
Adopted in April 2023 - Expires in April 2026	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Jack McGinn
ISSU Opposes	The ISSU is opposed to the publication of school league tables of Department of Education examination results.
Rationale	School League Tables only serve to highlight progression to Higher Education, this is not a valid indicator of academic achievement. Further to this it has become a high profile media event. Schools should not be publicly ranked based on how many students go to university.

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Policy 3	
Adopted in April 2023 - Expires in April 2026	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Andrew Victory
ISSU Favours	The ISSU is in favour of lowering the voting age to allow 16 and 17 year olds to be entitled to vote in all Irish Local, National, European and Presidential Elections, and Referendums.
Rationale	<p>"The ISSU has long been a supporter of the Vote@16 campaign. Recently our internal policy on this subject has lapsed and is required to be voted by membership in order to maintain official ISSU policy status.</p> <p>By lowering the voting age, students will be able to have more of a say in democracy and in turn their education system. It is vital for uplifting and defending the student voice."</p>

Policy 4	
Adopted in April 2023 - Expires in April 2026	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Anjelica Foley
ISSU Supports	The ISSU supports the provision of free period products in second-level schools for students.
Rationale	<p>Periods are a part of life and should never be a barrier to education, the Irish government has already announced the roll out of free period products in the further education and training sector. This should also be introduced in second-level as an important gender equality measure. Similar schemes are already in place in England, Scotland and New Zealand.</p>

Policy 5	
Adopted in April 2023 - Expires in April 2026	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Rebecca Livingstone
ISSU Favours	The ISSU is in favour of extending the School Meals Scheme at Second-level, the ISSU is also in support of an increase in the rate of payment.
Rationale	In the current cost of living crisis many families are struggling, the Free School Meals scheme alleviates some of the pressure on Families, this scheme should be extended and the rate of payment must be raised to ensure students are provided with a nutritious meal.

Policy 6	
Adopted in April 2023 - Expires in April 2026	
Supporting School	Aoife Carroll
Proposing Delegate	Athlone Community College
ISSU Supports	<p>ISSU recognises that it is vital to get young people into the habit of using public transport</p> <p>ISSU recognises that public transport is often the only way for students (in areas where it is available) to get around</p> <p>ISSU recognises the positive impacts that free school busses have had this year for many lower income families</p> <p>ISSU therefore pledges support for free public transport and continued free school transport to enable students to have more independence and ease in getting around whether it be to school or elsewhere.</p>
Rationale	Free Public Transport simply makes sense, particularly for students. Particularly for school transport, it is a basic right.

Policy 7	
Adopted in April 2022 - Expires in April 2025	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Eoin Connolly
ISSU Supports	The ISSU Supports the gradual integration of all single-sex schools in Ireland.
Rationale	The ISSU constitution supports “inclusive” school environments, no school environment can be truly inclusive when it excludes more than half of potential students. Segregation on account of sex is wrong and only fosters stigmas in society. These schools also end up restricting students' course options and pose unnecessary problems for Transgender Students. This is nothing against any student attending any of these schools, this is merely to allow the ISSU to support moves to gradually integrate schools in Ireland which will be for the best.

Policy 8	
Adopted in April 2022 - Expires in April 2025	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Eoin Connolly
ISSU Supports	The ISSU believes that schools should have secular governance. ISSU will continue to work with any managerial body regardless of this but stands with the principles of secular governance of education.
Rationale	Religious governance of schools in Ireland stemmed from the state's initial inability to do it themselves. Today it is in no way necessary. There are obviously brilliant and inclusive schools with religious governance but it is by no means the standard. Students are discriminated against on the grounds of “religious ethos” in an ever more diverse Ireland and we should support the move away from this.

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