

Statutory Ballot on Teacher Workload: Actions for EIS reps in February 2026

Key dates in the new ballot:

The postal ballot on workload is open now. Members should already have received their ballot paper to their home address in a yellow envelope. Any member who has not received a ballot paper, or cannot locate theirs, should contact ballot@eis.org.uk to arrange a replacement.

The final safe posting date is **Sunday 1st March** to ensure ballot papers are received by Civica in London. The ballot closes on Wednesday 4th March.

Checklist for Reps

- Check your members have received their postal ballot paper to their home address in a yellow envelope.
- If any members have not received a ballot paper, send their details to ballot@eis.org.uk.
- Try to speak with every member of the Branch regarding the ballot. Other activists may help you with this.
- Encourage members to vote in the ballot, to help their workload, the workload of their colleagues and to create jobs for teachers currently without jobs.
- Display the enclosed poster prominently in your establishment.

**SCOTLAND'S
TEACHERS
LOVE
EDUCATION**

**SCOTTISH
GOVERNMENT MUST:**

- ♥ BE FAITHFUL
- ♥ KEEP PROMISES
- ♥ CUT WORKLOAD
- ♥ CREATE JOBS

VOTE
EIS MEMBERS:
HAVE YOUR SAY

**NEW POSTAL
BALLOT ON
WORKLOAD**

STAND UP
FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

eis
The Educational
Institute of Scotland

Branch Meetings to Get the Vote Out

The most effective way to engage members in the campaign is to hold an EIS branch meeting in your school to discuss the workload campaign and encourage members to vote.

If you think your members would benefit from hearing from national EIS office bearers or officials on this topic, please contact your local EIS Organiser to arrange their attendance to a branch meeting in your school.

Further resources for Reps and members:

Ballot FAQ on the EIS website.



Reps' briefing and guidance on persuasive organising conversations. (requires MyEIS log-in)



National Webinars for Primary and Secondary members, School Leaders and members affected by HMRC backpay.



Guidance for reps on using EIS Engage.



Working Time Agreement Audits 2026

Now is a good time to start preparatory work on your school's next Working Time Agreement negotiations.

A Working Time Agreement (WTA) is a collective agreement reached at school level between the trade union(s) and the Headteacher. Each Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT) will offer guidance to schools in your area on agreeing a WTA. Once negotiations are completed, it is signed off as agreed by the Rep and Headteacher. The agreement is then binding on all staff.

Negotiations typically take place in the spring. Undertaking an 'audit' of your current WTA at an early stage is an effective way of ensuring members' needs and interests are reflected in next year's WTA, arming you with evidence to argue for improvements to the distribution of collegiate time.

Guidance and resources are available via the QR code, and keep an eye out for WTA training led by your Local Association.

If you would value support in approaching WTA activity, contact your EIS organiser.

SCAN QR



EIS Reps' Training

Bookings are still open for forthcoming Health & Safety Reps training in this session. If you want to learn more, or have recently become a new Rep then please explore our courses.

Should you require any assistance, please email Sophie Cooper Scooper@eis.org.uk

Action for Reps: If you are a Rep or know of an activist who wishes to attend EIS training, please contact your LA Secretary to apply for an EIS training course.

SCAN QR



STUC 'Shifting the Dial' sessions on tackling the far right

Shifting the Dial is the STUC's campaign to push back against hateful narratives that are threatening to divide our workplaces and communities. Partner organisation Trademark Belfast contributed to the EIS Organising Conference in autumn 2025, which also saw the launch of the EIS Briefing: Fighting the Influence of the Far Right.

These sessions with a wide range of partners from across the movement offer targeted training and activities to equip members, unite workplaces, and actively build community cohesion against the forces of division.

Action for Reps: Consider attending the STUC Shifting the Dial sessions using QR:

24th and 25th of February: Trademark Belfast and Jarrow Insights on the Political Economy and Digital Organising.

Register for Shifting the Dial - Political Economy and Digital Organising by filling in the form.

Tuesday the 3rd March: Dr Judith Sijstermans on Misinformation and Disinformation, as part of a study funded by the Scottish Council on Global Affairs.

Register for Shifting the Dial - Misinformation and Disinformation in Scotland by filling in the form.

24 & 25
FEBRUARY



3 MARCH



Tackling Online Misogyny

On 16th February, the Scottish Government launched a campaign on tackling online misogyny, which will be targeted at boys aged 11-18. Online misogyny is a significant and growing issue affecting young people across Scotland. As a result of the campaign, conversations about misogyny and its impact may arise in classrooms and among pupils. Scan the QR for further information about the campaign.

Action for Reps: Consider raising the topic of the campaign with your establishment, and emphasise the importance of collegiate discussion and professional learning in this area to prepare for any classroom discussion.

See the EIS website for suggestions www.eis.org.uk/many-good-men/usefullinks

SCAN QR



Upcoming PACT Training Days

The EIS will be offering a series of national poverty-related professional learning sessions as part of the PACT Programme.

PACT is a professional learning offer for educators in Scotland, rooted in the principles of social justice and equity. It is designed to support educators to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the nature, causes, and consequences of poverty, and its impact on learners, families, and wider communities.

If you or your colleagues are interested in joining us, more information on the times and dates, as well as guidance on how to register, can be accessed on our website. PACT offerings can also be tailored to be delivered locally for schools or local associations. Please get in touch with your LA Secretary or the Education and Equality Department if you would like to explore a local tailored session.

Action for Reps: Please consider coming along to one of the PACT sessions and share details of the sessions with members you think would be interested in attending.

SCAN QR



New MyGTCS Platform

The GTCS launched the new MyGTCS platform in August 2025. The new platform brings together the existing MyGTCS, provisional registration profiles and MyPL. It was rolled out to all provisionally registered teachers and their supporters last year and is now being rollout out to all teachers on a staged basis.

GTCS state there are currently no definitive dates of when records will be transferred over to the new system. However, teachers will receive an email approximately two weeks before any transfer takes place.

Further information about the new MyGTCS platform and rollout can be accessed on the GTCS website - www.gtcs.org.uk/mygtcs.

Action for Reps: You may wish to familiarise yourself with the new MyGTCS platform and highlight the staged approach to members.

International Health and Wellbeing Survey I-BEST 2026



The EIS is participating in an international survey of teachers' health and wellbeing called The International Barometer of Health and Well-being of Education Staff (I-BEST).

Unfortunately, the original survey link emailed to members became corrupted and the survey cannot be accessed through that link any longer or through the QR code contained in the posters sent to you in the January bulletin.

A new survey link was emailed to members at the beginning of February and we have included updated posters with the new QR code within this bulletin.

Members who have already completed the survey do **not** need to do so again. Their responses have been collated and will be considered as part of the final data analysis.



Action for reps: Please display the updated posters and encourage members to complete the survey.

Professional Learning Courses, Webinars and Resources

Online and in-person courses are being delivered throughout the rest of February and March and are now available to book. For more information on what's on offer or to book a place, please visit the EIS Professional Learning Courses & Seminars page: www.eis.org.uk/Meetings-And-Events/Courses.

Action for Reps: Please highlight the Professional Learning courses available to members.

International Women's Day Webinar 2026 Teaching in a Gendered Digital Age: Safety and Solidarity

Tuesday, 10th March (5.30pm- 6.30pm)

To mark International Women's Day, the EIS is hosting an online webinar, exploring how we can foster solidarity and safety in a gendered digital age.

This one-hour session will focus on tackling misogynistic disinformation and on promoting gender equality in education and in the workplace.

We will discuss how we can build lasting solidarity action for equality and share anti-misogyny education resources. If you or your colleagues are interested in attending, please sign up via the QR code.

Action for Reps: Please consider coming along and highlighting the event to members to encourage them to attend.

