

Policy 1	
Supporting School	Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny
Proposing Delegate	Saoirse Teehan
ISSU Opposes	The ISSU opposes the return to 20 Sraith Pictiúr for the Leaving Certificate class of 2025, and all Leaving Certificate classes going forward.
Rationale	<p>Expecting students to learn off 20 Sraith Pictiúr, but only to be examined on 1 of these is completely unreasonable. 10 Sraith Pictiúr is more than enough, as students already study 5 filíocht and 5 próis.</p> <p>German students are only asked to do 5 Bildergeschichte and 3 Rollenspiele; 20 Sraith Pictiúr is not a comparable ask. From speaking to 6th year students, 10 Sraith Pictiúr is still a challenge, but much more doable and enjoyable.</p>

Policy 2	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Leo Galvin - Communications Officer
ISSU Opposes	The ISSU opposes unequal access to subjects and resources and shall promote and Lobby the Government of Ireland the availability of increased subject choices in schools across Ireland.
Rationale	ISSU believes that every student should have the freedom to choose whatever subjects they would like to take for the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate regardless of their schools location, size, socioeconomic status or type.

Policy 3	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Bel Nabulele - Equality Officer
ISSU Supports	ISSU believes in and encourages student councils to set up Gender and Sexuality Alliances within their schools.
Rationale	The ISSU recognises the beneficial role a Gender and Sexuality Alliance can play within second-level schools.

Policy 4	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Roisin Myers - Sustainability Officer
ISSU Supports/ Opposes/ Favours/	ISSU is in favour of operating through a 'Sustainable Lense' and acting in a manner which is sustainable for themselves, those around them, their environment and all other aspects of sustainability, using the Sustainable Development Goals as a support structure.
Rationale	This contributes to all of the Sustainable Development Goals and maintains sustainability as the ISSU's core value when representing the student voice.

Policy 5	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Heather Doyle - Education Officer
ISSU Favours	<p>The ISSU is in favour of increasing the amount of Guidance Counsellors to ensure that all students have access to a guidance counsellor regardless of the year they are in or their individual circumstance.</p> <p>The ISSU pledges to work with relevant stakeholders including the Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC) to ensure that guidance counsellors receive relevant and updated training in their role in order to cater for the needs of all students.</p>
Rationale	<p>ISSU recognises the increasing need for mental health and career related support in schools for students and the need for schools to have the resources to cater for this in the interest of the wellbeing of students.</p> <p>The ratio of students to guidance counsellors in schools makes it very difficult for all students to benefit from this guidance.</p> <p>The function of the guidance counsellor in a school can often become heavily focused on career guidance and the time allocated to the mental wellbeing of students can often be decreased because of the lack of resources.</p>

Policy 6	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó

Proposing Delegate	Saidhbhe Concannon - Disability Officer
ISSU Supports/ Opposes/ Favours/	<p>ISSU recognises that many young people have no option but to work during their time in second level education in order to support themselves in the progression to third level.</p> <p>ISSU supports and pledges to take any and all efforts, at the discretion of the Coiste Gnó, to provide resources to those second level students who are in employment.</p>
Rationale	The ISSU notes the support students may need in any issues they may have or difficult encounters that may arise to them in employment may not be solved by the student alone. It is therefore the responsibility of the ISSU as a union to support students by providing resources.

Policy 7	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Mairin Harding - Welfare Officer
ISSU Supports/ Opposes/ Favours/	<p>The ISSU recognises negative mental health is a serious issue for students across Ireland.</p> <p>The ISSU pledges to support initiatives and organisations at the discretion of the Coiste Gnó in tackling poor mental health in students.</p>
Rationale	Current mental health education can be improved with collaboration with other organisations. The ISSU recognises third party organisations are the most well equipped to deal with youth mental health and develop resources to facilitate mental health Development. The ISSU further recognises that all students need support in developing coping mechanisms, self awareness and other aspects of maintaining good mental health.

Policy 8	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Iffah Rahmat - International Officer
ISSU Opposes	<p>The ISSU opposes the Direct Provision system.</p> <p>The ISSU pledges to support and fight for fair educational rights and accomodations on behalf of students in Direct Provision.</p>
Rationale	The ISSU notes with concern the different and unfair treatment of others in Direct Provision, in particular the unfair treatment of

	second-level students in direct provision. The ISSU is committed to breaking down barriers students in direct provision may face in education in collaboration with students in Direct Provision.
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Policy 9	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Bel Nabulele - Equality Officer
ISSU Opposes	<p>The ISSU opposes difficulties faced by transgender students in expressing their gender identity within second-level schools in Ireland.</p> <p>The ISSU supports and will work to improve the experiences felt by students who identify as transgender and/or intersex in second-level schools by consulting with these students, prioritising their voices in discussions concerning them and other relevant, specialist stakeholders where appropriate.</p>
Rationale	<p>In a report published by BeLong To, surveying LGBTQ+ students in second-level schools, 50.0% of students heard negative remarks specifically about transgender people.</p> <p>The ISSU notes with concern the harmful effects of transphobia in schools, which can result in prejudice, discrimination and violence against students who identify as transgender, negatively affecting their access to education.</p>

Policy 10	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Louisa Tyrell - Regional Liaison and Support Officer
ISSU Favours	The ISSU is in favour of Student representation on Boards of Management
Rationale	There are a great many benefits that student representation can bring to the school community and students are the most important stakeholders in their education. While students under the age of 18 may not be voting members of a Board of Management the ISSU notes the value of observer members of school boards of management in elevating student voice and raising student concerns equally with the concerns of other stakeholders in communities.

Policy 11	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Leo Galvin - Communications Officer
ISSU Supports	ISSU supports the provision of Civic Education in Senior Cycle
Rationale	<p>Civic education in Junior Cycle is threaded throughout the SPHE and CSPE curriculum however, no such education exists in a mandatory capacity at Senior Cycle. The need for civic education does not disappear on entering Senior Cycle. The optional Politics and Society subject serves as the civic education component of Senior Cycle however, not all students take this subject. Therefore the ISSU supports Civic Education to be included in Senior Cycle such that all students receive a civic education.</p> <p>This Policy underpins the ISSU's current work in the field of Vote at 16 and Civic Education coming from the report "Irish Society: The Power of Youth"</p>

Policy 12	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Caitlin Faye Maniti - Uachtarán Oinigh
ISSU Favours	The ISSU is in favour of Mandatory Student Councils
Rationale	Under current legislation, student councils are not technically a mandatory requirement in schools. The ISSU notes with the utmost importance the presence of student councils in school communities as representative bodies for students are vital.

Policy 13	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Shari Irfan - Uachtarán
ISSU Opposes	ISSU opposes the practice of full time grind school institutions existing outside of the Department of Education, and the broader exploitation of mainstream entry to third level education in Ireland.

	<p>Educational success should be determined by the work, passion and talent exerted by a student, The ISSU discourages that the quality of education received by a student be dependent by their socio-economic background. Educational success should be possible for all, in a system which is free, equal and inclusive.</p>
Rationale	<p>The encouragement of fee paying grind schools could lead to a huge gap in the quality of education that students receive depending on socio-economic factors, while underpinned by the Sustainable Development Goals for quality education.</p> <p>The practice of stripping away wholesome, integrative and non-academic elements of education by a group of institutions in Ireland, is concerning. The ISSU recognises the personal detriment this may have on a student with regard to their development, their wellbeing, and their success.</p>

Policy 14	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Mairin Harding - Welfare Officer
ISSU Supports	The ISSU supports the inclusion of quality of support given to student councils by school management to be evaluated during Inspections by the Department of Education Inspectorate and the evaluation of the presence of student voice in decision making in second-level schools
Rationale	The ISSU notes the importance of strong student councils in school communities. The ISSU further notes the quality of support given to student councils by school management differs from school to school. The ISSU finally notes that it can be incredibly difficult for student councils to function effectively without adequate support.

Policy 15	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Caitlin Faye Maniti - Uachtarán Oinigh
ISSU Favours/	The ISSU pledges to fully serve the needs of our members, and recognises each and every student must be fully informed about the capabilities, work plans and leadership of the organisation. Student voice is at the core of the ISSU and so how we engage and communicate with students will further affect the development of the Union.

	The ISSU is in favour of endeavouring to engage with the ISSU membership in a qualitative manner through internal coordination to reach schools, Student Council Liaison Teachers and Student Councils through durable methods of communication.
Rationale	The ISSU must maintain a strong connection to its grassroots and its membership. The ISSU and its officers must endeavour to maintain good contact to keep our organisation effective, relevant and representative.

Policy 16	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Saidhbhe Concannon - Disability Officer
ISSU Supports	The ISSU supports innovative, emerging and evolving technologies and will work to support the inclusion and the use of technology in second-level schools for educational purposes and the benefit of students.
Rationale	<p>New technology is not something we should be afraid of using in schools. New technology should be embraced and used correctly in education contexts. New technology should be included in second-level education as it is inevitable new technologies will become a part of our later lives. Wariness and caution should not be left behind when incorporating new things into existing systems however it should not be stifled away.</p> <p>As students and young people growing up into and surrounded by technology it is our responsibility to lead and ensure the safe inclusion of these new technologies in education.</p>

Policy 17	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Bel Nabulele - Equality Officer
ISSU Supports	<p>ISSU supports the many forms of education and choice that young people should have over the manner in which they may learn.</p> <p>The ISSU supports non-formal education as the students they represent learn in many ways, both inside and outside of the classroom.</p> <p>The ISSU supports the recognition skills and competencies equipped through a young person's experience in all forms of</p>

	education, whether it be through formal, non-formal or informal education, particularly in the area of Active Citizenship.
Rationale	<p>This complements the ISSU's Equality and Diversity values when advocating on behalf of students, as this creates an inclusive and enjoyable environment for young people to learn.</p> <p>This contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 4 (Quality Education) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities)</p>

Policy 18	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Roisin Myers - Sustainability Officer
ISSU Supports	ISSU supports banning single use plastics (forks, knives, spoons, cups etc) and will encourage its member schools to do likewise.
Rationale	The intent and success of an Taisce and the Green Flag scheme is positive. However, many schools which have the green flag do not adopt a ban on single use plastics. The lack of environmental awareness provided to students on this issue is concerning. The one-use plastics only add to this issue.

Policy 19	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Iffah Rahmat - International Officer
ISSU Opposes	<p>The ISSU opposes discrimination and misinformation relating to students from the Travelling and Roma Communities.</p> <p>The ISSU pledges to support efforts to raise awareness of traveller and Roma rights and educational attainment and to encourage student councils to be more inclusive and involve and support any members of the Travelling and Roma Community in their schools.</p>
Rationale	There is a great deal of discrimination and misinformation relating to students from the Travelling and Roma Communities.

Policy 20	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Shari Irfan - Uachtarán
ISSU Favours	<p>ISSU is in favour of ensuring apprenticeships are encouraged as valuable options for school leavers.</p> <p>The ISSU pledges to support FET (Further Education and Training) and that a similar option to that offered to students progressing from LCA be made available to FET graduates in order to progress to higher educational studies.</p>
Rationale	<p>The lack of FET options in Ireland can exclude many students from educational attainment and realising their full potential. Ireland has the highest rate of progression to third level in Europe, however many students drop out.</p> <p>Our current education system neglects certain vocational skill sets which can contribute to early school leaving. While we have a very strong academic culture, our vocational skills are being neglected. FET or apprenticeships can be a viable alternative to the Leaving Certificate/ CAO route and students should be made aware of the options available to them as alternatives to going to college.</p>

Policy 21	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Roisin Myers - Sustainability Officer
ISSU Supports	The ISSU supports publicly funded higher education in Ireland
Rationale	Education is a fundamental right. Education should never be a commodity, nor a luxury reserved for the elite. Education is something which should be accessible to everyone, no matter who they are, no matter where they come from.

Policy 22	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó
Proposing Delegate	Iffah Rahmat - International Officer
ISSU Supports	The ISSU pledges to support students being consulted on their school uniforms this promotes a students' right to freedom of expression.

	The ISSU is in favour of second-level schools introducing a gender neutral uniform or policy where there is equal policy for all genders on wearing makeup, long/short hair, trousers or skirts.
Rationale	There is a high cost associated with uniforms and strain that can be put on students and their families as a result. The ISSU notes sexist or outdated uniform policies and the harsh punishment given to uniform violations in comparison to other school rule issues is concerning alongside the lack of student consultation and student input regarding uniform policies in schools.

Policy 23	
Supporting School	Coiste Gno
Proposing Delegate	Mohammad Naeem - Leas-Uachtarán
ISSU Supports/ Opposes/ Favours/	ISSU supports the abolishment of the Subminimum wage.
Rationale	Supporting the end of subminimum wage means closing the gap in pay between younger workers. Right now, a young person who is seventeen years of age gets paid less than someone who is twenty years of age for doing the same job. This seeks to make sure that all young people have an equal chance to earn a fair wage and be treated fairly in the workplace. So, supporting the end of the subminimum wage is about making sure everyone gets a fair shot at earning a living wage, no matter how old they are.

Policy 24	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Eimear Nic Dhonnchadha - Oifigeach na Gaeilge
ISSU Supports/ Opposes/ Favours/	ISSU opposes Teacher-Based Assessment grading models for project-based or continuous assessment components in all Senior Cycle subjects.
Rationale	Senior Cycle Redevelopment is in the stages of individual subject reform, one of the main changes includes how we assess students. The arguments against teacher-based assessment include, teachers have the opportunity to show favouritism towards specific students, teachers would have to give up time outside their timetable to grade these and teachers may face criticism from students or parents from a bad grade. Teachers

	Unions, Parents Associations and School Leaders are all opposed to teacher based assessment, ISSU needs to have a concrete position.
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Policy 25	
Supporting School	Longford-Westmeath Region
Proposing Delegate	Ryan Dolan - Longford-Westmeath Regional Officer
ISSU Supports	The ISSU will support the removal of the distance criteria on School Transport offered by Bus Eireann and the Department of Education.
Rationale	Removal of the Distance Criteria makes sense as many students living between towns are made concessionary on their chosen route. Some students are refused access to school transport schemes due to this.