



Department
for Education

We are the department for **opportunity**

Dear Sir,

RE: Oldham Group Motion (Council 15th July 2026) – School Uniform Provision

Thank you for your email of 4 August, addressed to Secretary of State, about Oldham Council's motion on school uniforms and for welcoming the statutory limit on branded school uniform items introduced through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

I am sure you will appreciate that the Secretary of State receives a large amount of correspondence and is unable to reply to each one personally. It is for this reason I have been asked to reply. I apologise for the delay in our response.

The recently updated statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform is already clear that - parents should be able to purchase generic items of uniform from a range of retailers, giving them choice and value for money.

Where branded items are optional schools should also ensure that wearing an equivalent unbranded version of that item is also permitted.

The guidance is also clear that for any branded items schools should avoid entering into single-supplier contracts unless regular tendering competitions are run, allowing more than one supplier to compete for the contract and ensuring that best value for money is secured. Schools are required to have regard to the guidance when developing and implementing their school uniform policies.

The department therefore has no current plans to issue further national guidance specifically on supply arrangements for uniform items that fall outside the statutory limit. We will, however, continue to engage regularly with stakeholders, including representatives of parents, pupils

and the school uniform sector, to monitor implementation of the new limit.

Thank you again for taking the time to write on this matter.

Your correspondence has been allocated reference number 2026-0082931. If you need to respond to us, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe> and quote your reference number.

Yours sincerely

J WATSON
Ministerial and Public Communications Division

Web: <https://www.education.gov.uk>
X (formerly Twitter): <https://www.x.com/educationgovuk>
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As part of our commitment to improving the service we provide to our customers, we are interested in hearing your views and would welcome your comments via our website at:
<https://form.education.gov.uk/service/TOCMTfeedback>.

Thank you for your help.



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