

Changes to statutory guidance on school uniform and appearance policies

Consultation response form

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Responses should be returned by **28 November 2022** to:

Education Business Planning and Governance Division
The Education Directorate
Education, Social Justice and Welsh Language Group
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:

email: schoolfundingmailbox@gov.wales



Cyngor Cymru ar Gyfer
Dysgu yn yr Awyr Agored

Wales Council for
Outdoor Learning

[Wales Council for Outdoor Learning](http://www.walescouncilforoutdoorlearning.org) acts

as a voice for the outdoor learning and environment sector bringing together organisations that support and deliver high quality teaching and learning in the outdoor environment.

The partnership shares good practice and influences policy development, highlighting the many benefits of outdoor learning and its contribution to the development of ethical and informed citizens of future generations.

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning helps to raise the profile of Out of Classroom Learning aiming to foster greater understanding and appreciation of its value and its vital contribution to education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

More information can be found at: www.walescouncilforoutdoorlearning.org/

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning welcomes the opportunity to comment on the changes to statutory guidance on school uniform and appearance policies and is happy to work with Education Business Planning and Governance Division to ensure the role of the natural environment in improving physical activity, mental health, and well-being and attainment is highlighted in all policy development.

The Network can provide advice and guidance on quality assured outdoor teaching and learning and provide training and support for teachers and education professionals.

Please do contact us for further clarification or information.

Question 1 – Do you agree that school governing bodies should prioritise affordability when setting their school uniform and appearance policy?

Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

With mitigating the climate and nature emergencies at the forefront of Welsh Government policy, Wales Council for Outdoor learning is pleased to support the prioritisation of affordable school uniform but strongly advises that Welsh Government school uniform and appearance policy must consider sustainability in all associated materials, production, transportation, marketing, and retailing to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Therefore, uniform must be sustainable *and* affordable.

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning would like to see affordable and sustainably sourced school uniform for all. This must include the adequate provision of outdoor clothing to support settings outdoor learning provision, now recognised as a core pedagogy within Curriculum for Wales.

Question 2 – Do you agree that school governing bodies should ensure easy access and availability of uniform items when setting their school uniform and appearance policy?

Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

As above.

With mitigating the climate and nature emergencies at the forefront of Welsh Government policy, Wales Council for Outdoor learning is pleased to support the prioritisation of affordable school uniform but strongly advises that Welsh Government school uniform and appearance policy must consider sustainability in all associated materials, production, transportation, marketing, and retailing to help mitigate the effects of climate change. Therefore, uniform must be **sustainable** and affordable and easily accessible and available

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning recommends that Welsh Government advises governing bodies to take further steps to promote a sustainable uniform and appearance policy, including the consideration of Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle, to minimize all waste associated with school uniform. This must include outdoor clothing - waterproofs, outer wear, wellies, sunhats, gloves, etc. required to take learning outdoors as per Curriculum for Wales guidance.

Question 3 – Do you agree that logos should not be required on school uniforms?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

This is difficult to answer when so many organisations within our Network do logo clothing and vehicles etc. We acknowledge that identity is important and if a logo is to be used its format, manufacture and use should be in as sustainable as possible.

Question 4 – Do you agree that logos should be limited to one outer garment, for example a jumper, cardigan or blazer?

Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

This would appear a sensible step to reduce cost and manufacturing impact whilst acknowledging the importance of identity.

Question 5 – Do you agree that iron-on or sew-on logo badges should be provided for learners, free of charge?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

Question 6 – Do you agree that logos should not be required on school sportswear and other school equipment?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

Question 7 – Many schools enter into single supplier arrangements with a school uniform supplier. This means that there is no choice about where branded uniform items are bought. Do you agree that schools should avoid single-supplier agreements with suppliers of branded school uniforms?

Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning would like to see an overarching requirement within the supply chain to ensure a level of sustainability in all associated materials, production, transportation, and reuse if marketing of branded uniform is to be continued. This, combined with other improvements in school policy will help reduce the the effects of climate change.

Question 8 – Do you agree that schools should be transparent in demonstrating that any benefit of a financial agreement they have with a school uniform supplier is being passed on to the customer?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

No comment.

Question 9 – Do you agree that if schools enter into an agreement with a school uniform supplier, they should ensure that the costs of using this supplier are similar to the costs of school uniforms available from high street retailers or supermarkets?

Agree	✓	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

This seems a sensible decision in light of the cost-of-living crisis as long as a level of sustainability can be guaranteed.

Question 10 – Do you agree that schools should operate a uniform exchange and/or recycling scheme available to families?

Agree	✓	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning would like to see a whole school approach to normalising pro environmental behaviours from an early an age as possible. A uniform exchange and/or recycling scheme would form part of normalising sustainable behaviour and raising the vital role the natural environment plays in sustaining human health and well-being.

Question 11 – We would like to know your views on the effects that guidance on school uniform and appearance policies would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Supporting comments

Question 12 – Please also explain how you believe the guidance on school uniform and appearance policies could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Supporting comments

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning would expect any policy changes to be in line with the Welsh Language Standards under Section 47 of the Measure to which many of the member organisations adhere.

Question 13 – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

No further comment.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: