

School Uniform Clothing Update August 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As most of you will be aware, Councillors agreed at Education, Children and Families Committee on 10 June 2025 that the Scottish Government guidance on school uniform will apply to all City of Edinburgh Council schools. This update was also included in the Edinburgh Learns Newsletter sent to all schools by the Service Director on Tuesday 17th June 2025.

In line with the decision made at Committee, schools in the city should not require branded school items as a compulsory part of their uniform policy.

Uniform policies should be flexible and include plain and non-branded uniform items that match school colours. Blazers and branded items of uniform will no longer be compulsory, encouraged or promoted by schools.

Schools in Edinburgh will continue to have uniforms but parents and carers will have wider choice on where they choose to purchase school uniform items and on how much they wish to spend.

Please ensure this information is clear on your website, an example of a school which has updated their website now advises the following: "School uniform can be purchased from your local retailer. Royal blue jumper, white shirt or white polo-shirt, grey\black trousers or skirt".

Parents or carers should not be directed to specialist suppliers to purchase branded school clothing items. Please ensure your school website doesn't make reference to any specific supplier.

We are aware that some schools are in the process of updating their school website with the link to [CEC website](#); we would encourage all schools to look at their own websites to check that information for parents and carers is up to date, including links to CEC [cost of living support](#) and [free school meals and clothing grants](#).

At Elected Members' request, Officers will engage with those schools that currently have branded uniform to ensure that they have non-branded options. Committee has asked for a report on the findings of this engagement which we hope will be concluded by December 2025.

PLEASE DO	PLEASE CONSIDER	PLEASE DON'T
Continue to follow Scottish Government guidance.	That the cost of school branded uniform items can be one of the most significant school costs for parents and carers and that the cost of purchasing school branded uniforms is becoming unaffordable for families.	Don't make branded or embroidered items a compulsory part of the uniform.
Ensure your uniform policy is flexible and include plain and non-branded uniform items that match school colours.	That providing an option for branded items that are purchased may create division and stigma within a school community.	Don't promote or encourage branded or embroidered school clothing items.

Ensure items can be purchased from a range of high street retailers and/or supermarkets.	Consulting with the school community where a change in colours / clothing may be appropriate.	Don't compel parents to buy uniforms from specific retailers.
Ensure the uniform policy allows for a range of prices to accommodate all families.	Allowing for variations in clothing based on weather or individual needs.	Don't raise Oracle requisitions for non-contracted specialist suppliers of branded or embroidered school clothing items as the waiver approved by Finance & Resources Committee expired on 30 June 2025.
Ensure parents and carers have choice on where they choose to purchase school uniform items and how much they wish to spend.	Including links on your website to The City of Edinburgh Council – Decision on School Uniforms Edinburgh School Uniform Bank https://edinburghuniform.org/ The City of Edinburgh Council – Cost of living pages https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/costofliving The City of Edinburgh Council – Free school meals, milk and school clothing grants https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants	Don't allow links directing parents and carers to specialist suppliers from your school websites.
Update your school website		