

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Concerns about expensive school uniforms have been exacerbated by the cost of living crisis. Budgeting for a full set is challenging for many Plymouth families who are already struggling to afford necessities.

Council notes that the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021 requires schools to follow new statutory guidance on uniform, with an emphasis on reducing cost and branded items. Governing boards were expected to be compliant with much of the guidance by September 2022.

Council welcomes that many Plymouth schools have already reviewed their uniform policies and, despite their own stretched budgets, are working hard to support families on lower incomes. However, further information is needed about the different approaches taken by individual academies.

Council therefore agrees the following:

1. The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People will write to every school in Plymouth requesting further information on their uniform policy:
 - Recent reviews in light of statutory guidance
 - Branded items from single suppliers
 - The average cost of a school uniform and PE kit
 - Additional support, second-hand options and promotion of local charities
2. Responses to the Cabinet Member's letter will be presented and considered at the next Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This will enable the committee to explore other ways that the Council can support families.
3. The Council's Cost of Living Support hub and social media channels will signpost families to local charities supplying free school uniforms.

Proposed by: Cllr Briars Delve

Signature : Approved by email.

Seconded by: Cllr Cresswell

Signature : Approved by email.

