# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE** | **Update on the proposed changes to the suite of Regulations under which independent schools in Wales operate** |
| **DATE** | **20 December 2023** |
| **BY** | **Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language** |

I want to ensure the quality of education and the welfare, health and safety of pupils in independent schools are strengthened, whilst not limiting unnecessarily the freedom independent schools have to organise themselves and deliver education.

The legislative framework will now put a strong focus on safeguarding and governance in independent schools, in particular the Standards Regulations make clear the school proprietor is ultimately responsible for compliance.

There was broad support for the proposed changes to the suit of regulations under which independent schools in Wales operates and these will come into force in early 2024. I am pleased today to publish the [summary of responses to the consultation on the proposals to update the suite of Regulations under which independent schools in Wales operate](https://www.gov.wales/proposed-changes-suite-regulations-under-which-independent-schools-wales-operate).

The consultation which ran from 22 May to 17 July 2023 sought views from all stakeholders who have an interest on how independent schools in Wales operate on the proposed legislative changes to the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the Independent Schools (Provision of Information) (Wales) 2003 and the new Independent Schools (Prohibition on Participation in Management) (Wales) Regulations.

Amending the regulations to reflect current best practice, guidance and policy is a vital element in ensuring that public trust and confidence in the independent school sector in Wales is maintained; as well as safeguarding the interests of children and young people learning in the independent setting.

The revised suite of Independent Schools Regulations will come into force in early 2024 and they will result in improved governance in independent schools and greater levels of safeguarding for children and young people learning in that sector in Wales.

This statement is being issued during recess in order to keep members informed. Should members wish me to make a further statement or to answer questions on this when the Senedd returns I would be happy to do so.