# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE** | **Launch of a consultation on draft statutory guidance to school governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies** |
| **DATE** | **29 November 2018** |
| **BY** | **Kirsty Williams AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education** |

Today I will be launching the public consultation on draft statutory guidance to school governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies**.**

Families face many different costs when it comes to school uniform, as well as activities both in and outside of school. Our PDG-Access funding is central to helping with these costs. It can make a real difference to the cost of not just school uniform, but equipment, sports kits and kit for activities outside of school.

To support PDG-Access, and schools to make effective decisions on their school uniform policies, I want to introduce statutory guidance for school governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies.

The new guidance aims to encourage a more consistent approach, across all schools in Wales, to the affordability of school uniforms. It will replace the current non-statutory guidance and will come into effect from September 2019.

The consultation focuses on affordability, and also addresses a number of issues that should be considered when developing school uniform and appearance policies, such as gender-neutral uniform items and flexibility during extreme weather conditions.

I welcome and look forward to views on the consultation document, which is available at: <https://beta.gov.wales/guidance-school-governing-bodies-school-uniform-and-appearance-policies> The closing date for responses is 21 February 2019.