# Government to cut school uniform costs and improve educational support with new bill



The UK Government has announced that a forthcoming law reform, known as the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, will significantly reduce the financial burden of school uniforms for the parents of four million children across England. According to analysis by the Department for Education (DfE), this legislative change is expected to save families a total of £70 million each year, equating to around £50 saved per child annually on back-to-school clothing expenses.

The new Bill, currently undergoing scrutiny in the House of Lords, is designed to tackle concerns that parents face disproportionately high costs when purchasing branded uniform items. While schools are already mandated to limit the number of branded items in uniform requirements, surveys indicate that many schools are not adhering strictly to these rules. On average, parents reportedly spend £442 on uniforms for secondary school children and £343 for primary school pupils.

A key provision within the Bill will set a maximum of three branded items that schools can require students to wear, excluding school ties. Speaking about the initiative, Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson said, "Looking smart at school shouldn't cost the earth and no parent should be forced to choose between buying family essentials and a school shirt or tie." She added, "Alongside our free breakfast clubs, these new laws will save parents hundreds of pounds a year and make sure family finances have no bearing on children’s time at school."

Phillipson emphasised that the Bill aims to enhance children's safety, reduce costs for parents, and elevate every school to the standards of the highest-performing institutions in order to break down barriers to opportunity. In addition to the uniform cost reforms, the Bill also proposes the introduction of free breakfast clubs, the establishment of a register for all home-schooled children in England, and the reform of academy school structures.

The proposed academy reforms have attracted criticism from some advocates within the academy system, who fear the changes could restrict operational freedoms and potentially limit pay scales. The Government, however, maintains that these changes are part of a broader plan to improve education quality and accessibility across the country.

This legislative initiative represents a multi-faceted approach to supporting families and improving the educational environment by addressing financial pressures and institutional standards simultaneously.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3909> - This URL provides information on the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, which includes provisions related to improving children's welfare and educational support. However, it does not specifically address uniform costs.
2. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/12/the-childrens-wellbeing-bill-what-parents-need-to-know/> - This blog post explains key aspects of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, such as ensuring all children receive suitable education, but it does not address school uniform costs directly.
3. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10165/> - This briefing provides an overview of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, covering its scope on children's social care and education, but lacks specific details on uniform costs.
4. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67dd2b17a18f580c277f7887/CWS_Bill_Policy__Summary__notes_as_amended_in_the_House_of__Commons.pdf> - This document outlines the policy summary of the Bill as amended, focusing on care leavers and social care, without mentioning school uniform costs.
5. <https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2025/01/08/the-childrens-wellbeing-and-schools-bill-summarised/> - This article provides an in-depth analysis of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill's impact on social care and education but does not include information about school uniform costs.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is the source of the original statement regarding school uniform costs, but it does not provide direct support from government or legislative sources for the specific claim about reducing uniform costs.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMioAFBVV95cUxPeFdjdjVZRENBeENSTU5UWWF5cVlQWEZhcmVKTHk0ODhoY2JjMTFEMWUxRlphU25hcG5wQmRtTlFRNnFEMG1EUWR3blFkOHVfS21xdHlDV25Wbk4xcHRKRVo4X19OS3BmMVI2c29YaEh3T01aVFBTbmU5SjRpODEzeExxT1NPU0tSdHlfdTEyYlF6cGdkYTF2TkRkLXR4c1pI?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data