

**Issued by email:** [Mark.McQuade@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.McQuade@niassembly.gov.uk)

9 June 2025

Dear Mark

**Re: School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill**

The Education Authority recognises that increasing the rates of the Uniform Grant would offer valuable support to families in meeting the costs associated with purchasing school uniforms. However, given current financial constraints, this may not be feasible at present. We therefore welcome the proposed Bill as a positive step towards making school uniforms more affordable for all families, particularly those from lower-income households.

The Bill should ensure that schools offer parents a wider choice of uniform suppliers, promote lower costs and competitive pricing, and reduce the requirement to purchase costly or non-essential items. This will help ensure that uniform-related expenses do not become a barrier for families when choosing a school.

We also welcome the provision that allows parents of children attending Independent schools to apply for the School Uniform Grant on the same basis as those whose children attend other schools.

Yours sincerely



**DONNA ALLEN**  
**INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS AND ESTATES**

“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”

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