

# **School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill**

[AS INTRODUCED]

## LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE

At Introduction the Chairperson of the Committee for Education had made the following statement under Standing Order 30:

*“In my view the School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill would be within the legislative competence of the Northern Ireland Assembly.”*



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# BILL

TO

Permit all pupils to wear trousers as part of their school uniform.

**B**E IT ENACTED by being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and assented to by His Majesty as follows:

## **Trousers as part of school uniform for all pupils**

**1.**—(1) The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 is amended in accordance with this section.

(2) At the beginning of Part 1 insert—

5

“CHAPTER A1

TROUSERS AS PART OF SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR ALL PUPILS

### **Trousers as part of school uniform for all pupils**

**A1.** All pupils are permitted to wear trousers as part of their school uniform.”

10 (3) In section 2 (particular matters for inclusion in guidelines), after subsection (2) insert—

“(2A) Guidelines under this Chapter must include provision—

- 15 (a) implementing and giving full effect to the right of all pupils to wear trousers, as part of their school uniform,
- (b) permitting all pupils to wear trousers, shorts or other leg coverings, whilst taking part in recreational, sporting or outdoor activities, as appropriate for that activity, as part of their school uniform.”

### **Publication of guidelines**

20 **2.** After section 15 of the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 insert—

**“Publication of guidelines**

**15A.** Guidelines under Chapter 1 must be published by the Department of Education as soon as practicable after issuing or reissuing them.”.

**Transitional arrangements**

5       **3.**—(1) This section applies in respect of the current guidelines issued under Chapter 1 of the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026.

(2) Those guidelines must be revised to take into account section 1 of this Act and reissued in accordance with section 1 of that Act by 1 August 2027.

10       **Commencement**

**4.**—(1) Section 1 comes into operation on 1 August 2027.

(2) The other provisions of this Act come into operation on the day after the day of Royal Assent.

**Short title**

15       **5.** This Act may be cited as the School Uniforms (Trousers) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026.



# **School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill**

[AS INTRODUCED]

A Bill to permit all pupils to wear trousers as part of their school uniform.

Introduced by: Mr Nick Mathison, Chairperson of the Committee for Education

On: 22 June 2026

Bill Type: Non-Executive Bill

## **ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS**

**An Explanatory and Financial Memorandum is printed separately as NIA Bill 40/22-27 EFM.**









Northern Ireland  
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