



An Bille Oideachais (Éidí Scoile Inacmhainne), 2025
Education (Affordable School Uniforms) Bill 2025

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



AN BILLE OIDEACHAIS (ÉIDÍ SCOILE INACMHAINNE), 2025
EDUCATION (AFFORDABLE SCHOOL UNIFORMS) BILL 2025

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ACT REFERRED TO

Education Act 1998 (No. 51)



AN BILLE OIDEACHAIS (ÉIDÍ SCOILE INACMHAINNE), 2025
EDUCATION (AFFORDABLE SCHOOL UNIFORMS) BILL 2025

Bill

entitled

An Act to make provision whereby the Minister for Education shall make regulations governing the implementation of an affordable school uniform policy in schools; and for this purpose, to amend the Education Act 1998. 5

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

Definitions

1. In this Act— 10
- “Act of 1998” means the Education Act 1998;
- “affordable school uniform policy” means written guidelines set out by a school regarding the school uniform required to be worn by its students, that are mindful of the resultant costs on families;
- “Minister” means the Minister for Education and Youth; 15
- “school” means any recognised school as defined in section 2 of the Education Act 1998.

Amendment of Act of 1998

2. Part VI of the Act of 1998 is hereby amended by the insertion of the following:

“Affordable school uniform policy

26A. (1) (a) The Minister shall, following consultation with patrons, national councils of parents, recognised school management organisations, recognised trade unions and staff associations representing teachers and school staff, student representative bodies and such other persons as the Minister considers appropriate, make regulations governing the implementation of an affordable school uniform policy in schools. 20 25

(b) Regulations under this section shall:

- (i) contain a provision that schools must develop and implement an affordable school uniform policy in consultation with parents and students; 30
- (ii) contain a provision that each school’s uniform policy must be

made available publicly, must be easily understood, and must clearly state whether each element of the school uniform is optional or required;

- (iii) contain a provision that schools must ensure parents are able to purchase all elements of the uniform listed in the school uniform policy from various retailers; 5
- (iv) contain a provision that only iron-on or sew-on school crests can be required;
- (v) contain a provision that the use of branded items must be kept to a minimum; 10
- (vi) contain a provision that schools must avoid wherever possible requiring students to purchase specific clothing for the purpose of extracurricular activities including, but not limited to, sporting activities; and that schools shall ensure no pupil is discouraged from participating in said extracurriculars or representing their school at events because of the cost of additional uniform items; 15
- (vii) contain a provision that schools shall wherever possible ensure that second-hand uniforms are available to students, for example through second-hand uniform sales or swap shops; and that schools shall inform parents of the availability of second-hand uniform items; 20
- (viii) contain a provision that schools shall avoid frequent changes to uniform requirements to allow items to be passed down to siblings, as well as other younger pupils through potential second-hand schemes; 25
- (ix) contain a provision that schools must take a mindful and considerate approach to enforcing uniform rules, where it is suspected that the financial hardship of a student and/or their family has resulted in non-compliance; 30
- (x) contain a provision that schools must ensure full compliance with these regulations no later than 12 months after the publishing by the Minister of same, the only exception being where this would breach a contractual agreement with a uniform supplier that pre-existed the coming into operation of this Act; 35
- (xi) contain a provision that the Minister shall request from the Ombudsman for Children's Office a report evaluating the extent to which schools have fulfilled their obligations under the regulations and the efficacy of the regulations in reducing costs for families. This report shall be requested 18 months after the publishing by the Minister of the regulations, and will be submitted to the Minister 6 months after this request and every 12 months thereafter." 40

Short title, citation and commencement

- 3.** (1) This Act may be cited as the Education (Affordable School Uniforms) Act 2025.
- (2) This Act shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may appoint by order or orders.

An Bille Oideachais (Éidí Scoile
Inacmhainne), 2025

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do dhéanamh socrú trína ndéanfaidh an tAire Oideachais rialacháin lena rialófar cur i ngníomh beartais éidí scoile inacmhainne i scoileanna; agus, chun na críche sin, do leasú an Achta Oideachais, 1998.

*Na Teachtaí Dara Ó Ruairc, Sorcha Uí Chléirigh
agus Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire a thug isteach,*

23 Meán Fómhair, 2025

Education (Affordable School Uniforms)
Bill 2025

BILL

(as initiated)

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An Act to make provision whereby the Minister for Education shall make regulations governing the implementation of an affordable school uniform policy in schools; and for this purpose, to amend the Education Act 1998.

*Introduced by Deputies Darren O'Rourke, Sorca
Clarke and Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire,*

23rd September, 2025

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR

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