**Additional allowances for school uniform.**

The fostering allowance is expected to cover the cost of purchasing and replacing school uniforms.

Many schools, however, will provide support to children to ensure they have the correct school uniform. Some schools have a mandatory policy of providing uniform for children in care.

Several schools will provide school uniform for children in care, moving from primary to secondary school.

Foster carers are encouraged make reasonable enquires to the child’s school to ascertain if they will provide help with the school uniform or reimburse any costs. Uniform provided by schools should only be accepted if it is new and unused.

If a school cannot provide the uniform, costs incurred by foster carers may be refunded by the fostering servicevia the uniform allowance.

School uniform relates to items of clothing that include:

* Blazers
* Jumper/Cardigan
* Shirts/Tie
* Skirt/Dresses
* Trousers
* PE kit
* School bag
* School shoes.

The criteria for payment of the school uniform allowance includes:

* A child arrives in their initial foster home without access to their uniform. This may be in cases when parents or previous carers refuse to give consent for the uniform to be provided.
* A child is aged 4-5 years when they arrive at their initial foster home and are due to start school within 3 months of the start of the placement.
* A child arrives at their initial foster home with school uniform but it is of poor quality or condition and needs to be replaced.
* A child is living in a task or permanence foster home, the care plan confirms a change of school is required and this necessitates the purchasing of different school uniform.
* A foster carer can provide details of exceptional circumstances where monies are required to purchase or replace school unform.

There is no entitlement to receive the maximum uniform allowance paid for each age group. The reimbursement of monies must be agreed by a fostering team manager prior to purchases being made. Foster carers are strongly advised to speak to their fostering social worker, provide the reason for requesting the uniform allowance and the approximate cost of the item(s) required.

Receipts for uniform purchased should be forwarded a fostering social worker who will arrange for monies to be repaid.

Once the uniform allowance has been paid the replacement/purchasing of additional uniform is the responsibility of the foster carer and should be budgeted from the weekly fostering allowance.