

SCHOOLWEAR ASSOCIATION

Charter for School Uniform Practices

The Schoolwear Association is the leading trade body that represents school uniform retailers, manufacturers, and suppliers right across the UK.

We promote best practice across the schoolwear industry and take our responsibilities to families, schools, and the planet seriously. Our new **Charter for School Uniform Practices** outlines our ten key commitments to these groups, setting out how we are working to drive up standards and are embracing a set of core values to make sure that everyone gets a fair deal on school uniforms.

Our commitment to families

1. Our members will ensure families get value for money from uniforms as we will provide garments that are high quality, long-lasting, and durable, thereby producing savings over the longer term.
2. We will provide tailored affordability support to those who need it, for example by supporting second hand or pre-loved uniform sales in schools or other initiatives that support parents and pupils.
3. We are calling on the Government to abolish the 'school uniform tax' by making school-specific uniform items VAT-exempt, creating further savings for families across the UK.
4. We will make best endeavours to ensure that parents can access uniform all year round in all shapes and sizes, irrespective of sex or gender identity, race, religion or belief, disability, or body shape.

Our commitment to schools

5. Our members will work with schools to ensure that they understand, and are able to comply with, the new statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms.
6. We will work with schools to ensure that they run competitive procurement processes. In support of this, we have developed practical uniform tendering guidance for schools to simplify the sole supplier procurement process.
7. We will establish written contracts with schools where branded items are supplied, which will set out transparent pricing of garments and clear terms of trade. In support of this, we have developed an advice note for members on writing supply contracts for schools.

Our commitment to sustainable and ethical practices

8. Our retail members will ensure that the suppliers we buy from and the products that we buy are sourced ethically, and that the whole supply chain is treated in line with International Labour Organization standards.
9. We will have policies in place to assess and minimise the environmental impact of our operations, and will ensure that these are made available to schools and stakeholders.
10. We will ensure that garments worn by pupils are safe and will fully comply with international regulations on the Mechanical Safety of Childrenswear, The Safety of Children's Clothing – Cord and Drawstrings, General Product Safety Regulations, and Flammability.