



-  Shirley.reynolds@telford.gov.uk
-  telford.gov.uk
-  facebook.com /TelfordWrekin
-  twitter.com /TelfordWrekin
-  01952 381366

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Dear All

Given the current economic outlook and winter fast approaching, families are becoming increasingly affected by the cost of living crisis. We know that rising living costs are going to have an impact for many Telford and Wrekin families who are already struggling to afford necessities.

The Council launched its Cost of Living Strategy in October 2022, which includes an extensive package of support for residents focusing on the key areas of: energy and utility costs, food, clothing and other essentials, Council Tax, money and benefits, health, care and wellbeing, housing and transport. Further information on the full range of support available can be found at [www.telford.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.telford.gov.uk/costofliving).

One area in particular, where we know schools can support is the cost of school uniforms. The Council welcomes that many Telford and Wrekin schools and academies have already reviewed their uniform policies and despite their own stretched budgets, are working hard to support families on lower incomes.

You will no doubt already be aware of the statutory guidance from the DfE in relation to the [cost of school uniforms](#) where governing bodies were expected to be compliant by September 2022. Some examples of actions taken by schools include, removing branded items, avoiding the use of single suppliers, encouraging second-hand options and promoting local charities and initiatives, for example the [School Uniform Project – Telford Crisis Support](#). One item that is frequently raised as very expensive is a school blazer. Where blazers are required, families tell us that the possibility of a sew on logo would enable them to purchase a cheaper option from retail outlets.

We know schools across the borough frequently go above and beyond to support their children and families and we would like to take this opportunity to whole-heartedly thank you for often being the beating heart of the communities you serve.

Yours faithfully



**Cllr Shaun Davies**  
Leader- Telford & Wrekin Council



**Cllr Shirley Reynolds**  
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families