

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan
Assembly Member for Aberavon

Kirsty Williams AM
Minister for Education

12th June 2019

Dear Kirsty,

I am writing to you to seek clarification on the Welsh Government PDG Access Grant. The purpose of which is to provide grant assistance to families on low incomes for the purchase of:

- School uniform including coats and shoes;
- School sports kit including footwear;
- Uniform for enrichment activities, including but not limited to, scouts; guides; cadets; martial arts; sports; performing arts or dance;
- Equipment e.g. school bags and stationery;
- Specialist equipment where new curriculum activities begin such as design and technology; and
- Equipment for out of school hour's trips such as outdoor learning e.g. waterproofs.

It has been brought to my attention that pupils who are in year 7 and 10 of comprehensive school have access to this grant with £200 being allocated in year 7 and £125 in year 10.

As you know, Cymmer Afan Comprehensive school in my constituency is closing at the end of this academic year and those pupils will be transferred to YSGOL Cwm Brombil in Margam. Many families in the Afan valley are amongst the poorest in my constituency and as such, buying new school uniform to move schools, when those pupils already in the school have the school uniform for Cymmer Comprehensive will incur costs on families that they may not be able to afford. I believe that in these circumstances, families should have access to this scheme in order to buy new school uniform as this change has been forced upon them by the local authority. I understand that the local authority will continue to support families of children in years 7 and 10 as they move to their new school but not families with children in other years due to the financial constraints the authority faces. This could place many children attending a new school without the full uniform required by that school (including all Gym/PE kits).

I would very much appreciate your input on this in order to support those families struggling with the costs of sending their children to school in September.

DAVID REES AC /AM

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Yours sincerely



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