



## Children and Young People Looked After – Clothing and Related Items Guidance

Somerset County Council has guidance in place to ensure that the needs of children and young people who are looked after are met; this includes clothing and other related items and basic equipment. This guidance aims to set out how Somerset County Council expects these needs to be met

We take our Corporate Parenting responsibilities very seriously. Children and young people looked after are exposed to the same pressures to conform and want the same things as others. How we provide for their clothing needs can increase their self-esteem and avoid further social exclusion.

We also understand that clothing and appearance plays a huge role in shaping identity. Children and Young people use clothing to express their culture, individuality, and personality and therefore we recognise the importance of supporting our looked after children and young people to make independent choices about how their clothing needs are met, to reinforce a positive sense of identity. This can include fashionable, branded items, items that reflect a child or young person's culture or heritage, non-gender specific clothing and having a favourite clothing item or preferred set of clothes that like to be worn. In these circumstances, we accept that the clothing needs may be met in agreement with the young person, foster carer, and their respective workers and may fall outside the parameters set out within this guidance. Where appropriate and safe to do so, discussion and agreement with the child or young person's birth families may be helpful when considering clothing items, particularly where this relates to items that reflect culture or heritage.

In drawing up this guidance we have consulted with Somerset's Children in Care Council and Foster Carer's Consultative group. We recognise there will be circumstances when carers or children and young people will want to discuss how their needs are met and our intention is that this can be done between the carer, child/young person, and their respective workers

Young People aged 16+		Secondary school age children (11-16)	
<u>Underwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Pairs of socks (or less if tights are worn/required)</li> <li>• 10 pairs of tights</li> <li>• 20 pairs of knickers/pants/boxer shorts</li> <li>• 5 bras plus a sports bra if required</li> </ul>	<u>Underwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Pairs of socks (or less if tights are worn/required)</li> <li>• 10 pairs of tights</li> <li>• 12 pairs of knickers/pants/boxer shorts</li> <li>• 5 bras plus a sports bra if required</li> </ul>
<u>Clothes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 tops (t-shirts, long sleeve tops)</li> <li>• 10 bottoms to include a combination of (trousers, skirts, shorts, leggings, joggers, jeans or alternatively dresses, as preferred to be worn by the young person)</li> <li>• 7 jumpers, cardigans, or sweatshirts.</li> <li>• 1 smart outfit, appropriate for college/job interviews</li> <li>• 1 outfit for special occasions</li> <li>• 3 Jackets/Coats to include 1 Waterproof, 1 Winter jacket and 1 Summer jacket</li> </ul>	<u>Clothes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 tops (t-shirts, long sleeve tops)</li> <li>• 7 jumpers, cardigans, or sweatshirts.</li> <li>• 6 bottoms (trousers, skirts, shorts, leggings, joggers, jeans or alternatively dresses, as preferred to be worn by the young person)</li> <li>• 1 outfit for special occasions</li> <li>• 3 Jackets/Coats to include 1 Waterproof, 1 Winter jacket and 1 Summer jacket</li> </ul>
		<u>School Uniform</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 School Coat</li> <li>• 2 sets of school uniform to include 5 shirts/blouses</li> <li>• School sports clothing to meet the range of activities the young person is involved in</li> <li>• School Bag</li> </ul>
<u>Nightwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 sets of nightwear</li> <li>• 1 dressing gown</li> <li>• 1 pair of slippers</li> </ul>	<u>Nightwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 sets of nightwear</li> <li>• 1 dressing gown</li> <li>• 1 pair of slippers</li> </ul>
<u>Swimwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimwear for sport or leisure purposes</li> <li>• 1 beach swim wear</li> </ul>	<u>Swimwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 swimsuit for school/swimming pool</li> <li>• 1 beach swim wear</li> </ul>
<u>Shoes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A set of shoes to meet each of the day to day/fashion/sports needs of the young person. We recommend at least one pair of the following e.g.:</li> <li>• Smart shoes - appropriate for college/job interviews/work</li> <li>• Shoes suitable for any sports/activities that</li> </ul>	<u>Shoes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A set of shoes to meet each of the day to day/fashion/sports needs of the young person. We recommend at least one pair of the following e.g.:</li> <li>• Smart shoes - appropriate for college/job interviews/work</li> <li>• Shoes suitable for any sports/activities that</li> </ul>

	the young person is involved with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainers/walking shoes</li> <li>• Summer footwear, e.g. sandals, flip flops, sliders</li> <li>• Winter footwear, e.g., wellies/ boots or suitable casual wet weather footwear</li> </ul>		the young person is involved with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainers/walking shoes</li> <li>• Summer footwear, e.g. sandals, flip flops, sliders</li> <li>• Winter footwear, e.g., wellies/ boots or suitable casual wet weather footwear</li> </ul>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luggage - holdall/suitcase/s with capacity to hold all of the young person's clothing if/when moving on/ and or for trips/holidays</li> <li>• School/College/Work bag</li> <li>• 1 other bag as required (e.g., sports/fashion bag)</li> </ul>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luggage - holdall/suitcase/s with capacity to hold all of the child/ young person's clothing if/when moving on/ and or for trips/holidays</li> <li>• School/College/Work bag</li> <li>• 1 other bag as required (e.g., sports/fashion bag)</li> </ul>

## Young People moving on

Before a young person moves on from foster or residential care, they should have a number of possessions that will be a starting point for living more independently. These should include:

<u>Clothes, Shoes and Underwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See basic wardrobe and other items required for 16+ Young People as outlined above</li> <li>• Clothing &amp; equipment required for work, college, sporting activities, hobbies / interests specific to the individual young person's education/career pathway (inclusive of a laptop if going into further / higher education)</li> </ul>
<u>Toiletries and Supplies</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towels and enough toiletries to cover at least 2 weeks after moving</li> <li>• Basic cleaning supplies, tin foil, cling film, and toilet roll</li> </ul>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 'bottom drawer' of small useful household items: at least one set of crockery and cutlery, basic pots and</li> </ul>

	<p>pans, cooking utensils, tin opener, scissors, grater, chopping board, sharp knife, tea towels, small desk lamp, laundry basket, basic first aid kit and a set of bedding to include; single duvet and pillow, duvet cover and pillowcase and bottom sheet (if preferred by the young person, items that they are already familiar with).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile phone</li> <li>• Some means of accessing TV / radio stations / music</li> <li>• The young person's memory box and life story book that has been with them and added to since becoming looked after</li> </ul>
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Primary School age children (5-11)		3 – 5 Years	
<u>Underwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Pairs of socks (or less if tights are worn/required)</li> <li>• 7 pairs of tights</li> <li>• 12 pairs of knickers/pants</li> <li>• 7 Vests</li> </ul>	<u>Underwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Pairs of socks (or less if tights are worn/required)</li> <li>• 7 pairs of tights</li> <li>• 12 pairs of knickers/pants</li> <li>• 7 Vests</li> </ul>
<u>Clothes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 tops (t-shirts, long sleeve tops)</li> <li>• 5 jumpers, cardigans, or sweatshirts</li> <li>• 6 bottoms (trousers, skirts, shorts, leggings, joggers, jeans)</li> <li>• Plus, two dresses (optional dependent on child's preference)</li> <li>• 3 Outer clothing items to include (one can be a school coat) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 Waterproof</li> <li>○ 1 Winter jacket</li> <li>○ 1 Summer jacket</li> </ul> </li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<u>Clothes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 sets of seasonally appropriate day clothes (in addition to any preschool/nursery clothing)</li> <li>• A set of preschool/nursery clothing for each day the child attends the provision, plus 2 spare sets</li> <li>• 3 Outer clothing items to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 Waterproof</li> <li>○ 1 Winter jacket</li> <li>○ 1 Summer jacket</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<u>School Uniform</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 School Coat</li> <li>• 2 sets of school uniform to include 5 shirts/blouses</li> <li>• School sports clothing to meet the range of activities the young person is involved in</li> <li>• School Bag</li> </ul>		
<u>Nightwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 sets of nightwear</li> <li>• 1 dressing gown</li> <li>• 1 pair of slippers</li> </ul>	<u>Nightwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 sets of nightwear</li> <li>• 1 dressing gown</li> <li>• 1 pair of slippers</li> </ul>
<u>Swimwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 swimsuit for school/swimming pool</li> <li>• 1 beach swim wear</li> </ul>	<u>Swimwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 swimsuit</li> </ul>
<u>Shoes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A set of shoes to meet each of the day to day needs of the child/young person. We recommend at least one pair of the following e.g:</li> <li>• Fitted shoes, suitable for school</li> <li>• 1 pair of shoes suitable for any sports/activities that the young person is involved with</li> <li>• Trainers/walking shoes</li> <li>• Summer footwear, e.g. sandals, flip flops, sliders</li> <li>• Winter footwear, e.g. wellies/ boots or suitable casual wet weather footwear</li> </ul>	<u>Shoes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 pair of fitted shoes</li> <li>• 1 pair of wellington boots</li> <li>• 1 additional item of footwear to meet seasonal needs e.g. boots/sandals</li> </ul>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luggage - holdall/suitcase/s with capacity to hold all of the child/ young person's clothing if/when moving on/ and or for trips/holidays</li> <li>2 other bags as required (e.g. ruck sack/school bag/sports bag)</li> </ul>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luggage - holdall/suitcase/s with capacity to hold all of the child's clothing if/when moving on/ and or for trips/holidays</li> <li>• 2 other bags as required (e.g. ruck sack/changing bag)</li> </ul>

2 – 3 Years		Babies – Birth to 2 Years	
<u>Underwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Pairs of socks (or less if tights are worn/required)</li> <li>• 12 pairs of knickers/pants</li> <li>• 7 Vests</li> </ul>	<u>Clothes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 sleep suits</li> <li>• 7-14 sets of seasonally appropriate day clothes (depending on age of child)</li> <li>• 3 Outer clothing items to include an all-in-one warm suit</li> <li>• 10 body suits</li> <li>• 14 pairs of sock (or less if tights or sleepsuits required)</li> <li>• 3 - 5 anti-scratch mittens (babies only)</li> <li>• Soft booties (babies only)</li> <li>• 2 hats and pairs of gloves</li> <li>• Sun hat</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<u>Clothes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 sets of seasonally appropriate day clothes</li> <li>• 3 Outer clothing items to include an all-in-one outdoor playsuit.</li> </ul>		
<u>~} Nightwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 sets of nightwear</li> <li>• 1 dressing gown</li> <li>• 1 pair of slippers</li> </ul>	<u>Swimwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 swimsuit</li> </ul>
<u>Swimwear</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 swimsuit</li> </ul>	<u>Shoes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pair of fitted shoes if required (dependant on age)</li> </ul>
<u>Shoes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 pair of fitted shoes</li> <li>• 1 pair of wellington boots</li> <li>• 1 additional item of footwear to meet seasonal needs e.g. sandals/boots</li> </ul>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luggage - holdall/suitcase/s with capacity to hold all of the child/ baby's clothing if/when moving on/ and or for trips/holidays</li> <li>• 1 changing bag</li> <li>• Cotton hooded towel</li> <li>• Baby shawl or blanket to remain with the child.</li> <li>• 5 muslin squares</li> <li>• 10 bibs</li> </ul>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luggage - holdall/suitcase/s with capacity to hold all of the child's clothing if/when moving on/ and or for trips/holidays</li> <li>• 2 other bags as required (e.g. ruck sack/changing bag)</li> </ul>		

		<u>Equipment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steriliser</li> <li>• Dummy if used</li> <li>• 6 baby bottles</li> <li>• Baby bottle brush</li> <li>• Cot/crib suitable to baby's age</li> <li>• A mattress (If not new, must be firm and flat, free from tears, holes and sagging and always protected by a clean waterproof cover, as per lullaby trust guidance)</li> <li>• 3-4 sets of bedding made for natural breathable fabrics (for babies these should be thin, lightweight blankets not duvets, and no pillows or cot bumpers)</li> <li>• A changing mat</li> <li>• A baby bathtub/suitable bath seat</li> <li>• A car seat appropriate to baby/child's age and weight</li> <li>• A (BS EN 1888:2018 conforming) pram/travel system/pushchair suitable to baby's age and weight, with rain covers and sunshade to fit (for new-born babies this must decline to 150 degrees or more)</li> <li>• A highchair with 5-point harness suitable to baby/child's age and weight</li> <li>• A baby monitor dependent on age/development of baby/child</li> <li>• Appropriate (BS EN 1930:2011 conforming) safety gates fitted where necessary</li> <li>• Appropriate (BS 8423: 2010 conforming) fireguards are fitted where necessary</li> </ul>
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