

## **Explanatory Memorandum to the School Organisation Code (Appointed Day) (Wales) Order 2026**

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by School Governance, Organisation and Admissions team for laying before Senedd Cymru alongside the School Organisation Code (Appointed Day) (Wales) Order 2026. This is in accordance with Standing Order 27.1.

### **Cabinet Secretary's Declaration**

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of the School Organisation Code (Appointed Day) (Wales) Order 2026.

**Lynne Neagle MS**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Education**  
**30 March 2026**

## **1. Purpose and overview**

- 1.1. This order brings into force the revised edition of the School Organisation Code under section 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act") on 30 March 2026.
- 1.2. The revised School Organisation Code ("the Code") sets out statutory requirements and guidelines for local authorities and other proposers when bringing forward proposals for school organisation changes.
- 1.3. This is the third appointed day order to be made under section 39 of the Act to appoint a day for a School Organisation Code, or a revised School Organisation Code, to come into force.

## **2. Matters of special interest to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

- 2.1. None.

## **3. Legislative background**

- 3.1. This order is made under section 39(4)(b) of the Act. Although this order does not follow a Senedd procedure, it is still required to be laid before Senedd Cymru under section 37F of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019.
- 3.2. The draft revised Code was laid before the Senedd for a 40-day period. Subject to the Senedd not resolving not to approve the Code, the Code will be published and, in accordance with this Order, will come into force on 30 March 2026.

## **4. Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)**

- 4.1. An RIA has not been completed for this order. This is in line with the exemption in section 3.2 of the Welsh Ministers' code of practice for carrying out regulatory impact assessments for subordinate legislation.