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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations amend the Education (Assisted Places) (Incidental Expenses) Regulations 1997 (“the 1997 Regulations”) in respect of a school year beginning on or after 1st September 1998. The 1997 Regulations provide for the payment of grants as regards incidental expenses, and for the remission of incidental expenses, in respect of pupils eligible to continue to hold assisted places by virtue of section 2 of the Education (Schools) Act 1997, notwithstanding the abolition of the assisted places scheme by section 1 of that Act.

An amendment is made to regulation 1(3) of the 1997 Regulations so as to clarify that the provisions of those Regulations apply to a school authorised to provide assisted places by virtue of regulation 19 of the Education (Assisted Places) Regulations 1997 (*regulation 3*).

Under regulation 2(3) and (4) of the 1997 Regulations, uniform grant is payable during the 1997–98 school year at an enhanced rate for a pupil who first took up an assisted place in that year in respect of clothing expenditure incurred in relation to that year. Those provisions are changed so as to permit the payment of this higher rate of grant to be made during the 1998–99 school year in relation to a pupil for whom it was not paid (in full or in part) before the end of the 1997–98 school year due either to an error or to a delay in calculating the relevant income (*regulation 4(3)*).

The means test (set out in regulation 2(5) of the 1997 Regulations) is relaxed and the amount of grant payable is increased for uniform grant payable in respect of clothing expenditure incurred in relation to the 1998–99 and subsequent school years (*regulation 4(4) and (5)*).

The means test (set out in regulation 4 of the 1997 Regulations) for travel grant is relaxed and the amount of grant payable increased (*regulation 5*).

A spent provision is omitted from regulation 9(1)(b) of the 1997 Regulations (*regulation 6*).