

Is School Uniform Necessary?

Hi, today I am going to be talking about school uniform and is it necessary. I have decided to talk about this topic because it has always been a very controversial issue for pupils and parents, and especially because it has been in the news recently.

Did you know that the average school uniform costs £340 per child in secondary school and £255 for a primary school child per year? Nearly 1 in 6 families have fallen into debt because of school uniform costs, and many families have found that they are now struggling to afford basics like food because of the unnecessarily high costs of the uniform that schools unfairly insist on. I am sure that you will agree with me that this is a shocking statistic and this is one of the many reasons why school uniform can be such a problem. I am going to share with you the advantages and disadvantages of school uniform, and you will be able to understand why this is such an important issue.

Let's take a moment to think about the positives of school uniform

Some pupils might say that having a school uniform saves time because you don't have to spend ages choosing an outfit to wear each morning or the night before. They could also argue that it saves the stress of choosing different outfits every day, and of worrying about whether your clothes are good enough and what they say about you. For example, most teenagers want to be fashionable enough to be accepted while still expressing themselves as who they are. So these people would say that having a school uniform for everybody saves all of this stress and time because you don't have to decide what to wear every day.

Many people would say that having a school uniform saves money because many children and teenagers feel the need to buy the most expensive clothes just to feel accepted and more confident in those clothes. This could cause financial problems for the whole family.

Another reason some people are in favour of school uniform is that it helps pupils to focus on their school work, and not on each other's clothes and accessories. I can imagine that teenagers would spend a lot of time commenting on and admiring or making fun of each other's outfits and fashion choices. This is an unnecessary distraction.

So what are the negatives of uniform?

As I have already mentioned school uniform itself is very expensive and having to have the exact right items of clothing everyday takes up a lot of time and causes stress. Parents either have to buy several of each clothing which can be very expensive, or otherwise they may find themselves under a lot of pressure trying to make sure that all the clothes are clean and dry everyday. A simple problem with laundry or an unexpected busy evening, meaning that a single item of clothing isn't dry on time could lead to your child having detention which is a lot of pressure for busy parents and unfair for children.

Another reason why many pupils our age are against school uniform is because it suppresses individuality. We are the young adults of the future and all are very different to each other. However we are all forced to wear identical outfits. In school pupils range for age 11 to 16. I consider myself to be a very different person now to who I was 5 years ago and I have grown as a person. Yet, here I am wearing the exact same outfit as I was when I first entered the school.

Overall, I think that whilst uniform is a little uncomfortable, itchy and let's face it, unfashionable, I actually feel quite thankful that I don't need to consider my outfit choices everyday. You only have to look at non-school uniform days, other pupils spend a lot of time discussing outfits, and this causes a distraction in lessons. There are many things that could distract pupils and prevent them from focusing on their work, but fashion does not need to be one of them. At

the end of the day, we're here to learn. We have our whole loves ahead of us to wear what we want.