

# Should Children Wear School Uniform?

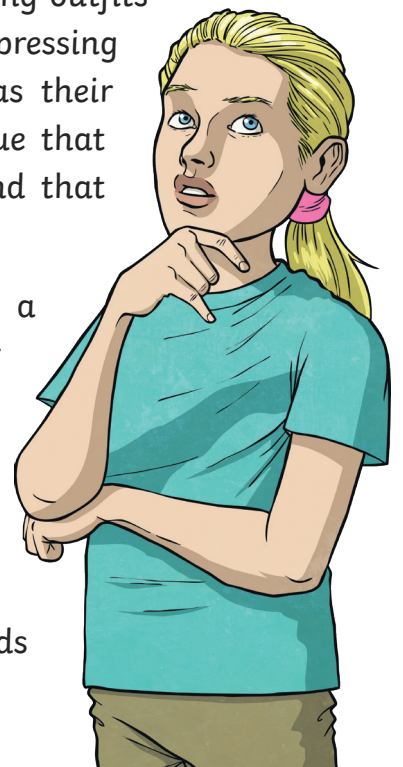


In many countries around the world, it is compulsory for children to wear a school uniform. The rules can be very precise and schools may even specify what hairstyles pupils can or cannot have. However, there are also many schools around the world who do not require their pupils to wear a school uniform and children are, within reason, allowed to wear almost anything they like. There are arguments in support of both perspectives, some of which will be discussed below.

One argument in support of school uniforms is that they help to promote a sense of equality. If all pupils are required to wear the same uniform, there is less opportunity for children from wealthier families to wear branded, expensive clothes. Poorer pupils may feel excluded and inadequate if they have to come to school in cheaper, practical clothing and this can lead to other issues such as bullying and low self-esteem. Surely it is better for all children to have to wear clothes that come from the same shop and cost the same amount of money? Wearing the same uniform every day also saves pupils time in the mornings. This is because, rather than spending time deliberating what they will wear, they simply adorn the school uniform and leave the house.

On the other hand, some people argue that allowing children to wear their own clothes promotes their individuality and allows them to express themselves. For example, children may use clothing as a way to show off their creativity as they enjoy modifying outfits to reflect their personality. Is it fair to prevent children from expressing themselves and forcing them to dress in exactly the same way as their friends? After all, they are children, not robots. Many people argue that school uniforms deprive children of their freedom of expression and that forcing them to wear uniforms goes against their rights.

Many people strongly believe that school uniform helps to install a greater sense of discipline amongst pupils. When children put on their uniform, they change from being a child to a student which in turn encourages them to obey school rules and procedures. In addition, learning to wear a uniform is something that children might have to do when they leave education and get a job. Doctors, nurses, fire fighters and even mechanics all have to wear a uniform in order to do their job. Therefore, children will be better prepared for the demands of working life if they have had to wear a uniform at school.



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One issue with school uniform is that the materials used to make the uniform may be cheaper and therefore uncomfortable. In order for children to learn to the best of their ability, many people believe that children need to be comfortable and relaxed. By wearing their favourite comfortable clothing, children will be able to focus on their learning without being distracted by uncomfortable clothing.

Conversely, while it is true that school uniforms are not the most comfortable or appealing items of clothing and that pupils might not feel as relaxed as they would in other clothes, children go to school to learn, not to relax and lounge about. They are there to follow the instructions of their teachers and to make progress with their learning. Pupils who wish to express themselves through their clothing can do so at the weekends or during school holidays.

In conclusion, I believe that children should have to wear school uniform. It helps to prepare them mentally for their day at school, reduces time spent choosing clothes and eliminates the chance of poorer, disadvantaged children from being discriminated about their belongings.