

Analysis: 10 classes (approximately 286 pupils)

	Question	Yes	No	Unsure	
1	Should there be a school uniform?	<b>74</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>17</b>	Some worried about being different.
2	Should there be a school uniform in the Early Learning Phase?	<b>95</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>14</b>	They are part of our school.
3	Should there be a separate uniform for Year 6?	<b>74</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>35</b>	
4	Do you believe that uniform is affordable for parents?	<b>54</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>90</b>	Didn't know the cost.
5	Do you think school uniform promotes identity and belonging?	<b>134</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>14</b>	
6	Do you think that school uniform minimizes competition over clothing?	<b>115</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>31</b>	
7	Do you think we should restrict footwear to black shoes?	<b>30</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>22</b>	
8	Should we ban jewellery altogether apart from ear studs?	<b>73</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>48</b>	
9	Who is school uniform for?	Parents 24	<b>School 110</b>	Pupils 86	Community 66
10	What should happen when a child is not in school uniform?	Child sent home 85	Parents asked to collect 13	Miss break & lunch 48	<b>Note home 137</b>
11	If we did not have school uniform, what would you consider appropriate to wear instead?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeans, jeggings, leggings, t-shirts, shorts, hoodies, sweaters, whatever we want.</li> <li>• Trainers normal clothes football shoes any clothes, smart clothes and dresses, sportswear and casual clothes casual clothes, suitable flat shoes, small jewellery, baseball hats.</li> <li>• Not allowed to wear posh clothes, party clothes, jeans football studs, tops and kit, light colours, heels PJs and wheels, inappropriate slogans, crop tops.</li> </ul>			

### Summary of findings:

- **68% said there should be no school uniform.**
- **58% said there should be no school uniform in the ELP**
- **59% said there should be no separate uniform for Y6.**
- **47% believe that school uniform is not affordable for parents.**
- **47% (compared with 48% who disagreed) felt that school uniform does promote identity and belonging.**
- **40% said that school uniform does minimise competition.**
- **82% said that we should restrict footwear to black shoes.**
- **56% said that we should not ban jewellery**
- **34% felt that school uniform was for the school's benefit.**
- **48% said that a note should be sent home when a child is not in uniform.**

Governors are keen to put the school uniform policy on a firmer basis, and to do that they would like the views of all sections of the school community. Some of the questions are a little obvious, but we want to be clear!

	Question	Yes	No	Unsure	
1	Should there be a school uniform?	27	0	1	
2	Should school uniform be compulsory throughout the school?	19	6	3	
3	Should school uniform be compulsory in the Early Learning Phase?	14	9	5	
4	Should there be a separate uniform for Year 6?	5	19	4	
5	Do you know how much our school uniform costs?	14	9	5	
6	Do you believe that school uniform is affordable for parents?	16	1	11	
7	Ought to consider a uniform without a logo, in the interests of cost?	9	12	7	
8	Do you think that school uniform promotes identity and belonging?	28	0	0	
9	Do you think that school uniform minimizes competition over clothing?	27	0	1	
10	Should PE kit be enforced (white tops, dark blue/black trousers/skirts)?	21	1	6	
11	Do you think we should restrict footwear to black shoes?	17	8	3	
12	Should we allow black/dark grey as well as grey trousers/skirts?	23	2	3	
13	Should we ban jewellery altogether apart from ear studs?	24	2	2	
14	Is it acceptable to wear clean but stained (paint, etc.), usable uniform?	20	2	6	
15	Should we be expected to provide spare uniform as a school?	7	17	4	
16	Should we allow some relaxation of uniform rules for Y6 due to cost implications?	8	15	5	
17	Do you believe it matters what colour socks children wear?	9	17	2	
18	Who is school uniform for? Tick all that apply.	Parents 21	School 27	Pupil 24	Community 26
19	How strictly do you feel we ought to apply the policy?	Very strictly 19		6 Not at all strictly 3	
20	What consequences for non-compliance?	Child sent home 1	Parents asked to collect 5	Miss break & lunch 4	Note home 26
21	How should we communicate non-compliance?	Colour-coded slip 17	Text message 14	Phoning home 8	

22	If we were to develop and improve school uniform from its existing form, what do you believe would improve it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold polo shirts or white, without a logo.</li> <li>• Dark grey trousers and skirts as well.</li> <li>• Standardised PE kit, and PE tops for competition.</li> <li>• Not red (it's not calm)</li> <li>• Class/group sets of matching raincoats for trips</li> <li>• Insist on footwear</li> <li>• More consequences for non-compliance</li> </ul>
23	What, as a staff member, are your particular bugbears about the current school uniform and the way it is worn?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoes: need to be comfortable: can be dangerous</li> <li>• Condition of clothes: holes, untidy, dirty, smelly, ill-fitting</li> <li>• Lost property unlabelled</li> <li>• Non-enforcement</li> <li>• Y6 taking liberties</li> <li>• Coloured socks and tights</li> <li>• Skirts are too short in Y6.</li> </ul>
24	If we did not have school uniform, what would you consider appropriate wear for school?	Way too many different and opposing views to include.
25 & 26	If we did not have school uniform, what opportunities might open up for us? And what threats do you foresee? If we did not have school uniform, what safety issues might there be? How would we ensure safety?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threats: Peer pressure, bullying, missing children (!), social distinction/self-esteem, higher costs due to pressure to buy brands, seeing children on school trips is harder, distraction from learning, lose sense of belonging, boundaries blurred between what is acceptable and what is unacceptable.</li> <li>• Keep individualism for longer, not needed for younger children, learn more about chn, accommodate different cultures, a more casual style of uniform might emerge, quiet children may become more confident, chn might take more care of clothes, seeing them as "theirs".</li> </ul>

Of 400 questionnaires sent out, 109 replies were received by the end of July.

Questions 1-4:

85/109 (78%) responses answered YYYN to Q 1-4	9/109 (8%) answered YYNN or YYUN	7/109 (6.5%) answered YYYY or YYUY	5/109 (4.5%) answered NNNN.	Other responses were YUYN, YUYU.
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	Question	Yes	No	Unsure
1	Should there be a compulsory school uniform?	104	5	0
2	Should school uniform be compulsory throughout the school?	102	5	2
3	Should school uniform be compulsory in the Early Learning Phase?	92	9	8
4	Should there be a separate uniform for Year 6?	7	100	2

Comments on this topic?

- Do Daisy class need a uniform, really? Y6 blazer in preparation for Y7?
- Uniform needs to be consistent, as it promotes unity.
- Children need to learn the importance of uniform for the rest of their lives.
- Shoe styles not to be stipulated for ELP.
- Is it tricky to have tights/trousers for the very young when they are still fairly new to using the toilet.
- Stops bullying if parents cannot afford what others may be able to.
- School uniform helps to identify a child during school hours, if he/she is not in school on time.
- It is called a uniform and everyone should look uniform. Thank you.
- A separate uniform in Y6 might increase the sense of responsibility.
- Obviously there should be uniform grey colour for trousers/skirts, but not so much jumpers/shoes.

	Question	Yes	No	Unsure
5	Do you believe that the school uniform is value for money?	73	22	14
6	Ought to consider a uniform without a logo, in the interests of cost?	36	65	8
7	Do you think that school uniform promotes identity and belonging?	104	4	1
8	Do you think that school uniform minimizes competition over clothing?	102	6	1

Comments on these topics?

- Yes, definitely. Everyone should look the same; not everyone can afford to dress their kids with different clothes on a daily basis; parents will spend even more on clothes and shoes. We only really have to buy the jumpers/cardigans for the logo: the polo shirts can be logo'd or not.
- I strongly believe in minimises competition. I am not sure that children should wear school logo.
- It's not about the cost: there are various ranges available for this mustard yellow. I find it reasonable and easy to source.
- Difficult to get correct yellow non-logo tops, so children wear different shades.
- Non-logo jumpers would be better for parents on low income.
- Current costs are very reasonable. It saves you a lot of washing, new clothing and buying more.
- Without the logos, no real sense of belonging: from a cost point of view, used 2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniforms are often on sale. The whole concept of logo is part of the identity, of belonging, of being one family. No logo and it's just clothes.
- If everyone is wearing the same thing and you are not, everyone will pick on you because you're the odd one out. No uniform would put financial pressure on families to provide the latest clothing to mitigate bullying etc.
- A uniform rings equality and negates "dress code" control. It makes you feel part of the school.
- Too many labelled items go missing.
- The logo on the jumper only. If the polo shirt had to be branded as well, this would not be helpful. No logo for book bags, PE bags, PE kits, trousers, skirts, etc.
- I think the "nearly-new" uniform sale is fabulous and therefore all budgets are catered for.
- Logo is important because it represents the school and shows a community as such.

	Question	Yes	No	Unsure
9	Should PE kit be enforced (white tops, dark blue/black trousers/skirts/culottes)?	92	12	5
10	Do you think we should restrict footwear to black shoes?	71	32	6
11	Should we allow black/dark grey as well as grey trousers/skirts?	71	32	6
12	Should we ban jewellery altogether apart from ear studs?	75	21	13
13	Is it acceptable to wear clean but stained (paint, etc.), usable uniform?	69	28	12
14	Should we be expected to provide spare uniform as a school?	37	45	27
15	Should we allow some relaxation of uniform rules for Y6 due to cost implications?	19	73	17
16	Do you believe it matters what colour socks children wear?	54	47	8

Comments on these topics? *Lots of conflicting opinions here, as reflected in data for Q9-16. This is a sample of main opinions:*

- If cleanliness is enforced, you have healthier children at school (no headlice, etc.).
- Dark colour socks are better/it's silly when we get down to socks/sock colour only matters when they can be seen/white or grey socks are best/odd-multicoloured socks take away from the overall neatness of wearing a uniform/add black as an option.
- Spare uniform is good for emergencies – could be sourced from lost property.
- We could reduce cost for jumper/cardigan for Y6 after Christmas, but otherwise not.
- Clothes can be stained by paint after one wearing, so we ought to let stained clothes in! Dirt and stains are not the same! Perhaps school could use washable paint and white board pens. Whiteboard pen does not wash out!
- Watches should be allowed, as should ear studs. Jewellery can get broken and is not necessary.
- Grey trousers only please. Black makes the children tarty (?). Grey uniform is easily available. Black could be just for Y6.
- Get children to change into school uniform on arrival if they do not have correct uniform on: problem will soon stop.
- White T-shirts are easy to replace.
- For girls, white sandals are nice in summer. Black trainers should be allowed, even though these get very hot in summer. I think shoes are very important and are part of uniform.
- Consistency is key. The school needs to enforce whatever it decides otherwise children and parents get confused and feel let down. Open-toed sandals aren't allowed by staff, but there is nothing about them in uniform guidance. Please ensure that all the rules are written down. Thank you!
- School children should wear proper school uniform including socks please. Kids look very smart and look very professional and ready to learn. Makes them stand out.

	Question				
17	Who benefits from school uniform?	Parents 79 (72%)	School 85 (78%)	Pupil 87 (80%)	Community 78 (72%)
18	How strictly do you feel we ought to apply the policy?	Every time we see it broken 34	After 3-4 offences 43	Take family circumstances into consideration 35	
19	What consequences for not complying with the school uniform?	Child sent home 10	Parents requested to bring item to school 42	Miss break & lunch 3	Note home 78
20	How should we communicate with parents that a child is not complying with school uniform?	Colour-coded slip 26		Text message 70	Phoning home 53

One parent commented, astutely: *“Questions 18-20 are rather pointless. It is the parents responsible for providing the uniform, and making sure the children wear it. I would hate to see my child being punished for things that are clearly parents’ duty!”*

21	If we were to develop and improve school uniform from its existing form, what do you believe would improve it?	<p>Many respondents did not answer this, or said they were happy with the way it was. A number of replies asked for colours more easily obtainable in supermarkets (the yellow has its own problems, obviously, and WHITE was a favourite as a replacement). Other comments were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red gingham summer dresses as well as yellow; cherry/red t-shirts showing less dirt.</li> <li>• Consider not having a logo: more variation in what children can wear.</li> <li>• The ribbed sides of cardigans – possibly reinforce them as they sag quickly, reducing the value for money.</li> <li>• Being more lenient in the way it is enforced; allowing black/grey trousers and no need for logo on tops and jumpers.</li> <li>• A school raincoat with a fleece inside.</li> <li>• Better value for money/more affordable option; being able to tumble-dry.</li> <li>• Get rid of logo, and change the uniform.</li> <li>• Scrap it altogether!</li> <li>• Include a tie! And a blazer....</li> <li>• Advise parents how to wash t-shirts and yellow tops – with whites, to keep the colour.</li> <li>• It is fine as it is, but better fitting items would be better.</li> <li>• The logo shirts run, diminishing the colour. Either accept generic yellow polo shirts or change the cotton in the logo.</li> <li>• Improving the quality of the uniform materials.</li> <li>• Distinct summer wear for all children.</li> <li>• Jumpers for boys only; all girls in cardigans.</li> <li>• Have a winter PE kit.</li> <li>• Enforce the no-boots and no-leggings rules.</li> </ul>
22	What, as a parent, are your particular bugbears about the current school uniform and the way it is worn?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some parents don't take the time to wash and iron uniform – I feel sorry for the child wearing it!</li> <li>• There should be no exceptions: everyone must comply.</li> <li>• Light coloured tops getting pen and paint stains when still new.</li> <li>• Jumpers stain easily especially as little ones use marker pens with whiteboards.</li> <li>• The colours (no reason given) and logo.</li> <li>• Shirts not tucked in.</li> <li>• Some of the yellows chosen look really faded and completely worn out and discoloured (lots of comments about this!!)</li> <li>• Summer/winter mix and match – perhaps this could be ironed out (no pun intended).</li> <li>• Shoes! These are the most expensive part of the uniform. I would like to buy any shoes/trainers for my children without limits to one colour: they grow so quickly.</li> <li>• Uniform not being complied with. We pay for our children to wear the school uniform and fail to see/understand why others are not complying, e.g. trainers and tracksuit bottoms.</li> <li>• Consistency and leeway that is applied – would like it more strictly enforced. We have a uniform and people are allowed to wear what they want – it gets worse as the school year goes on.</li> <li>• CTS...appears fearful to outrightly enforce the discipline of a proper uniform. Discipline is also biblical and will teach children valuable lessons and needs enforcing.</li> <li>• Shoes cause problems when others wear trainers or sandals and we are in black school shoes; variety of socks and shoes looks unsightly.</li> </ul>

23	<p>If we did not have school uniform, what would you consider appropriate wear for school?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regular casual clothing (leggings/joggers/t-shirts) to stop competition.</li> <li>● I think school uniform stops children turning up to school wearing anything (I think I know what is meant here!)</li> <li>● Perhaps have a couple of days a month when children can come in casual clothing.</li> <li>● Black/grey trousers, plain (no logo), top, own jumpers, shoes/trainers.</li> <li>● Black trousers, white shirt, cheap and affordable.</li> <li>● Smart trousers, nice casual clothing; no fancy dresses!</li> <li>● Anything! Let the kids be individual; worry about learning, not this!</li> <li>● Clothes that do not facilitate competition for labels. Modest, practical easily differentiated from weekend wear to reinforce psychological differences between the school and non-school environment.</li> <li>● Jeans and a t-shirt if we had no uniform (but I really want to keep it!).</li> <li>● T-shirt, trousers or skirt.</li> <li>● No jeans! Girls – leggings or trousers; boys chinos or trousers.</li> <li>● Trousers/shorts or skirts not above the knee; shirt with no logo and random shoes!</li> <li>● White shirt/blouse; dark trousers/skirt; shoes!</li> </ul>
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Those who replied to the questionnaire had children in the following year groups in 2014-15:

Foundation 1 Daisy	Foundation 2 Sunflower/Poppy	Year 1 Thistle/Conker	Year 2 Pumpkin/Acorn	Year 3 Clover/Mustard	Year 4 Rosehip/Teasel	Year 5 Sycamore/Catkin	Year 6 Barley/Wheat
<b>8 children</b>	<b>20 children</b>	<b>20 children</b>	<b>29 children</b>	<b>16 children</b>	<b>19 children</b>	<b>24 children</b>	<b>12 children</b>

This is a good representative spread of opinion, and I trust that your particular viewpoint is expressed in some of the comments made by parents in this summary.