## WHAT ARE OTHERS SAYING ABOUT THE PROS & CONS OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS?

### PROS

**Low Cost**
School uniforms are a bargain. They are becoming far less expensive than many other clothes. Schools argue that school uniforms are economical, especially compared to designer clothing, and parents agree given school uniform durability. They say school uniforms last longer because they are made for repeated wash and wear.

**Values & Modesty**
School uniforms stress that individuality and self-expression are not determined by designer clothing or the latest fashion fad. Modesty in attire can be maintained: It is very easy, if school uniforms are a part of the system, to avoid promiscuity in young adults. Students will learn to respect each other on the basis of how they get along and not how sexy they look.

**Professional**
Some say that a child in a school uniform is more likely to take school seriously. Putting on the school uniform signals he or she is going to school just like dad dresses up to go to work. Schools report that when students dress in "work clothes" rather than "play clothes" they take a more serious approach to their studies.

**Academic Outcomes**
Many educators and sociology experts believe that students who wear school uniforms perform better academically in school. Students are often so focused on their wardrobe that it distracts them from learning. Uniforms set a more serious tone within the school environment that is conducive to learning and can improve student performance. Some also believe that school uniforms improve student attendance.

**Behavioral Outcomes**
Many educators and sociology experts believe that students who wear school uniforms behave more appropriately in the school environment. They believe that uniforms dictate a stricter atmosphere and that students who wear uniforms are more likely to follow school rules. Experts believe that the mandatory use of standardized dress reduces violence within the school.

**Distractions**
Many parents believe that students wearing school uniforms look nicer and that a school uniform policy ensures that children will come to school in appropriate clothing, avoiding distractions such as fads considered to be outlandish or overly revealing. Some students have turned school into an unending fashion show. This distracts from learning, as some kids spend more time focused on their clothes than on homework.

**School Spirit:**
Some feel wearing a school uniform helps build school spirit. It instills a feeling of belonging. As the Beach Boys said, "Be true to your school." Schools report an increase in school pride.

### CONS

**Individuality**
Suppressing individuality is the most commonly cited objection to school uniforms. Educators argue that an academic program encouraging students to pursue individual thought is much more important than what they wear. They inhibit creativity and self-expression, forcing students to conform.

**Causes Discipline Problems**
Some students reject any rules. Forcing them to wear school uniforms only aggravates their rebellious spirit. They alter their school uniform by tightening, widening, shortening, or lengthening them, and teachers are given the impossible task of policing the students on a daily basis.

**Cost**
Some believe that the cost of school uniforms is a negative factor as those who see it as a positive factor. Some experts believe that it increases the amount of clothing parents will have to buy for their children because the children will still want and need clothing for the hours they are not in school. Uniforms can be more expensive for a family who buys from second-hand stores or who relies on hand-me-down clothing from friends and family. Some experts believe cost is a negative aspect of school uniforms because there is no use for them outside of school.

**Comfort**
Critics argue that different types of clothing feel comfortable to different people. Some children are more comfortable in a specific material or style of clothing. Uniforms reduce one’s ability to choose clothing that fits individual comfort needs. Experts believe that children need to feel comfortable in order to maximize learning, and that uniforms can therefore deter academic success.

**False Sense of Security**
Fosters cocoon - like environment: School Uniforms create a false sense of security. If the student gets used to being respected for their mind and not looks, the "outside world" could come as quite a surprise to them.

**Mundane**
Some say that uniforms can get boring and mundane: Same clothes, same color, every day can get very boring. The absence of different types of apparel and colors in the surrounding could prove to be quite depressing.

**Little or No Relationship to Academics**
Opponents insist that their is no credible evidence that school uniforms improve school discipline or promote higher academic achievement. The principal argument is that some great students are terrible dressers. Dress does not necessarily improve learning.