

Uniform Policy Consultation

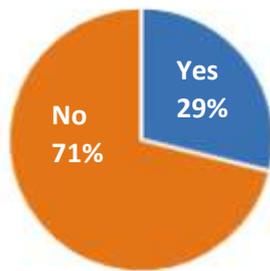
Following a parent forum discussion on 04/04/2022, we considered a number of changes to the uniform policy. 113 parents responded to a further parent survey and children in year 5 and 6 were all asked for their views.

1) Joggers instead of trousers

Some parents feel that children should be comfortable at school and should be allowed to wear jogging bottoms instead of trousers. However, there is a clear majority of parents that felt that joggers were too casual and not appropriate for a smart school uniform.

Some parents expressed concern that not all parents would follow the policy for plain joggers (as has been shown currently by parents not following PE kit uniform – see below) and children would start to want to come to school in branded clothing.

Parents were asked: ***Do you think that children should be able to wear joggers as an alternative to school trousers / skirt?***



Parents were invited to comment further and some typical responses were:

"I think joggers as an alternative would look too scruffy as uniform and I wouldn't send my children in them."

"In regards to joggers, they are not durable enough for school like the trousers and skirts are."

"A smart unimpressive is needed to represent the school. I feel joggers would look awful"

"Also joggers would not be acceptable as this will just encourage a divide again towards families that can't afford brand names (as children will wear brands) and parents who abide by the school rules but have a child who wants to follow suit and wear joggers too because friends do, as they want to follow trend/ majority. Also joggers are would certainly not look smart"

Some parents have suggested that children with sensory issues would be better supported by allowing joggers as some children may feel more comfortable.

Parents and children who do want to wear joggers both have strong opinions however, they are in the minority.

Conclusion

We will not change the current uniform policy but will make reasonable adjustment for any child with sensory issues and may allow joggers to be worn through agreement with the SENDCo.

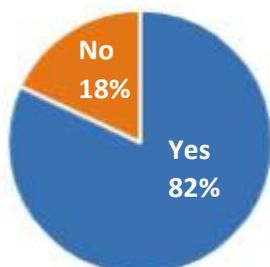
2) Ankle boots

Our uniform policy was changed in 2021 to exclude boots as a number of children were coming to school in “fashion” boots that were not suitable for play or climbing on the play equipment. Staff raised concerns about children’s safety at these times.

A number of parents suggested that ankle boots are more durable and provide better protection during the winter months. A large majority of the parents agree that ankle or “Chelsea” boots should be included in the policy.

Do you think that children should be able to wear ankle boots to school?

(Note that all footwear will always need to be suitable for safely running and climbing!)



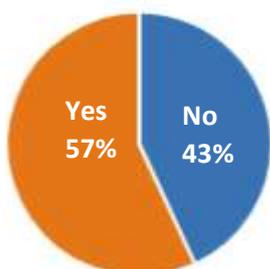
Conclusion

The policy will be amended to include ankle boots.

3) School tie

The school tie was introduced in 2019 and we quickly found that it was not suitable for wearing with a polo shirt, children constantly lose them and this can cause anxiety. In 2021 the policy was updated to ensure a tie should only be worn with full button shirt and is optional from years 3-5 and only required in year 6. We have found that many children have lost their ties, do not like wearing them.

Children in year 5 and 6 are in favour of a school tie with 70% saying they think it is a good idea. A smaller majority of parents agree that ties should remain compulsory for year 6.



Some children comment that the tie clip is uncomfortable and that ties are easily lost. Staff are also concerned about lost learning due to “tie hunts” and the time needed to monitor which parents are not following the school policy correctly

Conclusion

We will not change the current uniform policy on ties, they will continue to be optional for children in year 3-5 and compulsory for children in year 6 but will make reasonable adjustment for any child with sensory issues through agreement with the SENDCo.

We will investigate if an alternative to the current clip design can be made available.

School will purchase a number of "school" ties that children can wear if they forget to bring them.

4) PE Kit

The majority of breaches to the current school uniform policy are in this area. Many children do not wear black or unbranded items and this makes children who's parents do follow the school uniform policy feel that it is unfair. A minority of parents (25%) have expressed difficulties in purchasing uniform with plain black PE kit as kit identified as the hardest items to find as they are often out of stock in the correct size for their child. For example:

"Stock not being available and the price"

"A lot of school uniform I had trouble getting pe kit was the worst"

"Plain black joggers and plain black hoodies are not easiest to get hold of"

"Black PE joggers and hoodies that don't have logos on them. There are plenty of plain navy blue, but black are getting difficult to get hold of."

"Struggled to get black pe joggers and jackets."

Conclusion

We will change the PE kit to allow plain black OR navy PE joggers and confirm to parents that PE trainers can be any colour.

5) Hair accessories

The uniform policy was updated in 2021 to request long hair tied back with plain black or navy hair bobble or band. This was done to reduce the large number of ears, bows and other adornments that were becoming a bit of a distraction. Some parents feel this should be relaxed now to allow for appropriate hair style to keep hair away from children's faces.

Conclusion

Wording in the policy will be updated to allow for "appropriate" hair bobbles and headbands.