



20 Disadvantages and Advantages of School Uniforms

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There aren't any clear records to show when the wearing of school uniforms really started. But this tradition has certainly been around for hundreds of years. In the United States, it was observed that more schools started to implement uniforms after President Bill Clinton pitched for the use of school uniforms in his 1996 State of the Union. The move was met with mixed reactions as some parties saw it as a nuisance and additional problem for students while others viewed it as the solution to improve the educational system and performance of schoolchildren in the United States. What do you think about school uniforms? This list of advantages and disadvantages might help you decide on your stand on the matter.

List of Advantages of School Uniforms

1. They create uniformity.

There can be a better sense of unity because everyone will wear the same clothes and they have a single identity. Also, there will be less competition among children about who has the more expensive outfits or who looks better or is more fashionable.

2. They give a sense of belonging and pride.

A uniform is an indicator of what school you belong to. This is especially beneficial for students who study in schools that are well known or are considered to be a top school in the locality. You can proudly wear your uniform and 'show' other people that you attend a good school.

3. They promote school spirit.

When everyone is dressed the same and feels proud to be a part of their school, it boosts morale. The student body has a greater sense of togetherness and pride, boosting school spirit.

4. They allow parents to save on time and money spent on shopping for school clothes.

Usually, school uniforms can be worn for a whole year or two. This means there isn't a need to spend for new clothes every semester and parents don't have to deal with picky children who demand expensive brands or a certain style of clothing.

5. They help students spend less time and energy on choosing what to wear daily.

Getting ready for school in the morning can be easier and faster. Plus, there is less stress in figuring out the whole night what to wear the next day or in trying to keep up with peers and fashion trends. Instead, kids can focus on doing their homework or other beneficial recreational activities.

6. They take away social segregation.

The way you dress usually dictates what sort of clique you belong to, such as the goths, jocks, nerds, and so on. If everyone is dressed the same, it can take away the need to put a label on each person and the tendency to just stick with your 'crowd.'

7. They provide a safer school environment.

Since all students are dressed in uniforms, it can be easier to pinpoint who is not supposed to be in there. This also prevents students from showing their gang affiliations by wearing certain colors or articles of clothing.

8. They encourage students to express themselves in other ways.

Because kids can't show their individuality through clothes, they will try to express themselves through other methods such as the arts, academics, sports, or extra-curricular school activities.

9. They take away the need to create so many policies related to dress codes.

Most schools that don't have uniforms have a dress code. But figuring out what rules to include can be taxing because they need to identify what materials, lengths and types of skirts are okay, what sort of footwear are inappropriate, and so on. With uniforms, setting an acceptable standard is easier since there is just one type of outfit to base the policies on.

10. They prevent bullying.

The way children dress is one of the most common reasons for bullying. Kids who dress differently or who can't afford branded clothes are made fun of and discriminated. School uniforms can help stop this issue.

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List of Disadvantages of School Uniforms

1. They take away individuality and freedom of expression.

Learning how to express yourself is a right that most parents want their children to learn from a young age. By not allowing kids to show their

individuality through the way they dress, they may feel oppressed and discouraged to develop their own personality.

2. They can be an additional cost.

If children go to school 5 or 6 days a week, they need at least 2-3 sets of uniforms.

3. They can cause additional stress to students and parents.

In relation to the point above, if the family can't afford several sets of uniforms, they may have to wash the uniforms when the kids get home. This can be tiresome and takes away time that could have been spent on schoolwork or rest.

4. They can cause discomfort.

Some kids may have allergies or feel uncomfortable due to tightness and rigidity. This can affect their mood and learning throughout the whole day.

5. They promote an intolerance of cultures.

Most uniforms are not designed according to the cultural dress of a population or they represent only one culture. Also, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender students may become confused if they should wear a uniform that represents their inner sexual orientation or their external gender.

6. They cause resentment among students.

As children start to develop their own opinions, they won't like being forced to do something they don't want to. So requiring students to wear uniforms against their will can breed resentment towards the school, faculty, and even their parents.

7. They could cause outside bullying.

School pride and rivalry is something that some students take very seriously in a negative way. They can taunt or bully kids belonging to a rival school who they can easily identify through the uniforms.

8. They undermine free education.

Unless the school or government will sponsor the cost of uniforms, it will be the students' families who need to shoulder the expense. And this contradicts the idea of free education since public schools are supposed to provide education at no cost to parents.

9. They become a band aid solution to bigger problems.

Poor academic performance, school violence, and decreasing attendance are some of the major issues schools face today. Opposing proponents question if school uniforms are really the answer to solving these problems.

10. They can hinder a child's decision making skills.

Since you do not allow students to choose what they can wear, you are taking away their right to make a choice for themselves. This can disrupt the development of their ability to form their own opinions or make choices, and interfere with their transition into adulthood.

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