

## Uniforms Must Be Banned

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It's early morning, the first day of school: high school. You know your friend is supposed to be here today but you can't find her through the sea of colours, or might I say colour, the only uniform that students are allowed to wear is a dull navy blue. You can't differentiate one student from the next and are soon and are soon engulfed by the crowd, accepting your high school's endorsement of being like 'everyone else'. I am a student who wears a uniform every workday. I too suffer the struggles of a student who has to endure the troubles of uniforms, not to mention the pressure put on my parents, and other parents alike, to pay for them. The banning of these priceless rags patched with logos will do everyone better.

I find it difficult to think that school's belief that we all like to be little cookie-cutter students with the same shirts and pants and have the same interests and have no incentive to express one's self. We live in Australia for goodness sake, the nation known for its beautiful multicultural society and diversity. Shouldn't we promote this kind of society within schools as well? Students should be allowed to express themselves and their culture, not trick them into the idea that diverseness is wrong. Expressing one's self helps students develop a sense of who they are and their uniqueness. According to the districtwide survey, %70 of students dislike uniforms for this exact reason, and they have every reason to.

If you had the choice between paying \$10 or \$200 for clothing, I am sure most people would choose the cheaper option. Every single student knows that they could've saved \$200 by wearing the perfectly fitted clothes that were already in their closet, or even five bucks for a t-shirt at K-mart would do fine. The unnecessarily large cost for uniforms is getting bigger each year and is becoming more of a struggle for parents to keep up with the prices than it should be. It is beginning to look like a cash grab scheme and shouldn't be an issue that families need to worry about, but it is.

"Uniforms reduce bullying," you say. How about you say that to the kid being beaten up as we speak. Yes, what he wears is just like everyone else but that doesn't stop those bigger kids of the yard picking at weak spots. %64 of students say that uniforms do NOT reduce bullying, and may I remind you that it is us students that have to deal with all the teasing, pushing and shoving and still try and smile and produce the highest mark. Give us a break! High school is one of the most stressful times for children, so stop acting that uniforms are a form of armour that will help us survive these twelve years.

With all these reasons highlighting the convenience of not have school uniforms, I find it hard to be in the position of someone to disagree with this issue. Perhaps uniforms are a way of schools getting quick cash in their pockets, an excuse for an attempted solution to bullying or

perhaps way of restricting student's ideas of themselves. All I know is that banning uniforms is one step closer to better schools.