

We should have uniforms: a speech to subvert the norms.

A sea of colour and branded-sneakers flows into the hallway, taking under any remaining survivors of the shipwreck that was the allowance of free dress. The waves hurl insults at the strugglers, targeting their non-designer shirts and shoes. This is a school where there are no uniforms- a school where bullies rule the classrooms. My name is Holly Anderson, and I know that that isn't a school I want to be at. I want to be at a school where students can learn, a school with a low crime rate and where I can be happy and healthy along with my peers- a school with uniforms. Wouldn't you?

As the teacher rises, 30 bright eyes follow her, contented and interested in their lessons. This is a classroom where every student wears the same uniform and is able to learn as well as have fun. A study in 2015 where students from more than 35 countries were assessed showed that school uniform both improves the behaviour of students and allows students to listen better. Imagine a classroom in a school with no uniforms- it would be the complete opposite! Chairs thrown at other students, profanities high on the air and bullies running rampant; this may seem like some dystopian future, but this is exactly what it'd be like if we introduced a free dress policy. Instead of students completely focusing on their lessons and what their teacher is saying as they should, students with no uniforms would ignore their education to focus on what their peers are wearing. If it was made so that children could attend this school without uniform, our school would turn into a mess of crime, unhappiness and fear. And no one wants that, do they?

With a hoodie pulled over their head, they lug a huge bag down the hallway, their face shadowed and hidden. This is a usual sight though in a school without uniform, it could simply be another student tired from a night of partying whose eyes cannot stand the sight of the sun, or it could be worse- much, much worse. In a school with uniforms, the crime rate is a lot lower. A study in 2017's results suggested so when it was found that introducing uniforms to a school in California, America reduced reports of assault and battery by 34%, assault with a deadly weapon by 50%, fighting by 51%, sex offenses by 74%, robbery by 65%, possession of weapons by 52%, possession of drugs by 69%, and vandalism by 18%. I'm sure you all know what it's like to feel unsafe- while crossing a busy road or walking in the city at night- but no one wants to feel unsafe at school. If it was made so that students could attend this school without uniform, our school would turn into a mess of crime, unhappiness and fear. And no one wants that, do they?

I'm sure that you are aware that maintaining the mental health of students is a very important part of a school's community, but did you know that school uniforms themselves can have a huge, positive impact on a school's wellbeing? At our school, we wear our red and black with pride. School uniforms create a sense of unity and community between students, as we see can see each other as equals, and not have to worry about the labels and questions that come with free dress, such as "How expensive is your outfit?" or "You look really bad,". I personally know how terrible it feels to be bullied for the way I look and dress out of school, and I do not want to go through that at school. As well as the freedom from being targeted and teased, a school uniform means that students are saved from mountains of stress and have more free time, as they don't have to worry about what

they're to wear the next day- a feeling I'm sure that you've experienced. With school uniforms, this school is able to maintain the safe and welcoming community that you, as our principal, have worked so hard to create. If it was made so that students could attend this school without uniform, our school would turn into a mess of crime, unhappiness and fear. And no one wants that, do they?

If we were to make free dress a policy at our beautiful school, all sense would be thrown out the window. School uniform ensures a safe and protected environment where students are able to learn without the stress and worries of students with free dress policies at their schools. You, being a kind, wise, calculated and considerate person must understand that school uniforms are a vital part to keeping our school as amazing as it is. If you choose to make this school have a free dress policy, you would curse it to become a lonely, sinking ship destroyed by a tidal wave of bullying and indifference. But, if you choose to keep our school's uniform policy, you would be steering our ship to calm, safe waters.

Holly Anderson