

Project

School uniform: Is it good or is it bad?

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Sheragul 2017

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
CHARTER 1. THE HISTORY OF A UNIFORM.....	4
1.1. DEVELOPMENT OF A SCHOOL UNIFORM IN DIFFERENT CENTURIES.....	4
1.2. UNIFORM IN ENGLAND.....	4
1.3. UNIFORM IN GERMANY.....	4
1.4. UNIFORM IN JAPAN	5
1.5. UNIFORM IN RUSSIA.....	5
CHARTER 2. SCHOOL UNIFORM NOWADAYS.....	6
2.1. SCHOOL UNIFORM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM NOWADAYS.....	6
2.2. SCHOOL UNIFORM IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION NOWADAYS.....	7
CHARTER 3. RESEARCH.....	8
CONCLUSION.....	9
SOURCES.....	10
APPENDIX.....	11

On request "school uniform" Google gives plenty of results. It shows the popularity of the issue. "School uniform" Is it good or bad? Is it important nowadays and what for should we wear it every day in school?

A **uniform** is a type of clothing worn by members of an organization while participating in that organization's activity. Modern uniforms are most often worn by armed forces and some organizations such as police, emergency services, security guards, in some workplaces and schools.

A **school uniform** is a set of standardized clothes worn primarily for an educational institution. The introduction of school uniform is not a new thing. It might have a particular color of trousers or a skirt, plus a matching shirt and perhaps a jacket or a necktie, with matching socks and shoes. Countries with mandatory school uniforms are Japan, South Korea, Thailand, India, Australia, U.A.E, Singapore, and some schools in China, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Russia is among as many other places.

Aim of the work:

- To analyze the history of a uniform;
- To compare the uniform in Russia, England, Japan and Germany;
- To make own design of the school uniform.

Research methods:

- The analysis of resources of the Internet;
- The analysis of some publications on the topic;
- Questionnaires.

Hypothesis:

Students need school uniforms because it is convenient, practical, and allows students to focus on their studies and because it does not show the difference in social status of any student.

The practical significance:

Our own design of the school uniform can be offered as an alternative form of a beautiful and comfortable school uniform to wear.

1. THE HISTORY OF THE UNIFORM

1.1. DEVELOPMENT OF A SCHOOL UNIFORM IN DIFFERENT CENTURIES

Middle ages

After the fall of Rome, formal schooling in the West disappeared. Children studied in song schools of the cathedrals and monasteries.

Early modern era

We have very limited information on school wear in Europe during the early modern era. One fascinating view is Jan Steen's Dutch depiction of "The Village School" painted about 1665. One fascinating view is Jan Steen's Dutch depiction of "The Village School" painted about 1665. We have few indications that uniforms were commonly worn with the help of this work of art.

In the 16th century, England was the first country to require school uniforms. School uniforms in England were first introduced on a large scale during the reign of King Henry VIII.

But these uniforms were not to be worn by elite students; they were to distinguish the poor children attending charity schools from other children. It wasn't until 300 years later that students who attended the better English public schools began wearing uniforms. The uniforms of the time were referred as "bluecoats", as they consisted of long trench-coat-style jackets dyed blue. Blue was the cheapest available dye and showed humility amongst all children. The first school to introduce this uniform was Christ's Hospital and it is the oldest uniform of any school.

1.2. UNIFORM IN ENGLAND

In 1870 was made elementary education available for all children in England and Wales. The popularity of the uniforms increased and eventually most schools had a uniform. During this period most uniforms reflected the trends of the age. Boys wore short trousers, blazers and long trousers from about 14 or 15. Girls mainly wore blouses, tunic dresses and pinafores later progressing towards the beginning of the 20th century to gymslips.

These uniforms continued until the 1950s when after the Butler reforms secondary education was made free and the school leaving age was raised to 15. These reforms encouraged schools to implement uniform codes which were similar to other schools. Distinct "summer" and "winter" uniforms were sometimes required, particularly for girls where dresses were mandated for summer and gymslip for winter.

1.3. UNIFORM IN GERMANY

German schools have never required school uniforms as in Britain and other European countries. Even during the height of the military's popularity in Imperial Germany or the NAZI years, there was no great interest in uniforms for school children. In the early 20th century German boys have

not generally worn school uniforms. Sailor suits and suits were the most common, but some boys also wore smocks like French boys. Since World War II uniforms have been unpopular in Germany. Boys commonly wore shorts and knee socks, even secondary age boys in the 1950s. After the early 1960s, shorts are not commonly worn, except for casual summer wear. As a result, there is no traditional German schoolboy dress as is the case of British schoolboy caps and blazers or Italian and French schoolboy smocks. Two different school systems were developed in Germany after the war, a democratic system in the Russian occupation zone and a democratic system in the American, English, and French zones. Post war Germans has been especially ill-disposed toward school uniforms. Some parents, faced with rising school discipline problems are beginning to reevaluate their long-held opinions on school uniform. The two post-war systems were merged after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany in 1989.

1.4. UNIFORM IN JAPAN

The Japanese school uniform is modeled on European-style naval uniforms and first was used in Japan in the late 19th century. Today school uniforms are common in many of the Japanese public and private school systems. The Japanese school uniform is named **seifuku**.

An official from Tombow Co., a manufacturer of the sailor fuku, said that the Japanese took the idea from scaled down sailor suits worn by children of royal European families. The official said "In Japan, they were probably seen as adorable Western-style children's outfits, rather than navy gear." Sailor suits were adopted in Japan for girls because the uniforms were easy to sew. The sides of the uniform had similarity to existing styles of Japanese dressmaking, and the collar had straight lines. Many home economics classes in Japan up until the 1950s gave sewing sailor fuku as assignments. Girls sewed sailor fuku for younger children in their communities.

In the 1980s sukeban gangs began modifying uniforms by making skirts longer and shortening the tops, and so schools began switching to blazer style uniforms to try to combat the effect. As of 2012, 50% of Japanese junior high schools and 20% of senior high schools use sailor suit uniforms.

Japan was the only major country to outfit its school children in military uniforms. And for younger boys, school uniforms meant short pants. The Japanese at the onset of public education strongly believed in uniforms for both elementary and secondary school children and this tradition continues unabated.

1.5. UNIFORM IN RUSSIA

In Russia school uniforms were abolished after the 1917 revolution, but were re-introduced in 1948. Initially, the new uniform was very similar to that in place before the communist takeover. Wearing uniform was made mandatory and pupils were penalized for not following the rules.

The style of Soviet school uniform was modernized in 1962, and since that time was modified each decade. There could be some variations across different Soviet Republics. Boys generally wore dark blue pants and jackets, girls — brown dresses with black aprons and black bows (on special occasions, white aprons and bows were worn). The members of the Young Pioneer organization, to which literally every student belonged, wore famous red neckties. Special sport uniforms also existed for physical education classes. In the early 1980s, a dark blue three-piece suit was introduced for girls and the strict rules on haircuts were loosened.

In 1992, mandatory school uniforms were abolished. Today, there is no unified standard uniform in Russia; however, certain schools may have their own uniform that students are required to wear. Educational institutions without a uniform may also have a certain dress code.

There is also a modern-day tradition for girls to dress into brown Soviet-style school uniform for their graduation ceremony.

2. SCHOOL UNIFORM NOWADAYS

2.1. SCHOOL UNIFORM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM NOWADAYS

In some British schools uniforms are worn by all the pupils, in others the children can wear what they want to.

Typical British school uniform consists of:

- School blazer with school crest or logo
- White or blue shirt
- School tie
- Black, navy, grey or maroon trousers or skirt (sometimes shorts will be allowed in Primary Schools)
- Grey or black socks (boys)
- White socks or black or skin-coloured tights or hold-up stockings (girls)
- Plain black shoes (trainers may be allowed in summer)
- Black, navy, grey or school colour v-neck pullover or black pullover with the school crest or logo

Many schools also specify PE kit which might consist of:

- School polo shirt with school crest of school logo – tucked into tracksuit or shorts or dress
- Blue, black, red, green or white shorts depending on school uniform colour, sometimes with school logo or crest
- Trainers (for children of any age)
- Pumps (sometimes for younger children)
- Gym skirt (girls)
- Athletic briefs (girls)
- Leotard (girls)

- White or black socks
 - Swimwear – one-piece swimsuit (girls), swimming briefs (boys), sometimes with school logo
- Many girls wear tartan skirts. This is especially common in Grammar schools and Independent Schools.

Many schools (both private- and state-funded) have moderately strict rules on the wearing of make-up, jewellery or fashion clothing. Over the last ten years a trend towards wearing school sweatshirts and polo shirts or t-shirts as well as more casual styles of trousers such as plain, dark-coloured jeans, cargo pants or tracksuit bottoms has spread throughout schools in the UK, particularly in London. This was seen as a way to make the uniform more up-to-date as well as make it more affordable to lower income families who couldn't afford blazers, etc. In most state schools girls can wear trousers instead of skirts as part of their uniform. Although never an official part of the uniform, the Parka jackets became extremely popular as a school winter jacket in the 1970s and 1980s. It was a relatively cheap jacket affordable by most families and therefore in many schools at the time almost every boy would have one though they were less popular with girls. Unpopular during the 1990s the Parka jacket is becoming popular again.

It's interesting to note that some public schools in Britain, such as Eton, have uniforms based on what was worn over a hundred years ago. Eton is a very old school for boys in the UK. Eton students wear a strange old-fashioned school uniform. It consists of a black tailcoat, black trousers, a black waistcoat, black shoes, a white tie. This uniform is not for special occasions, it is worn at all times. A lot of famous people have been to Eton including Prince William and Prince Harry. Prince William liked to wear a waistcoat made from the British flag.

2.2. SCHOOL UNIFORM IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION NOWADAYS

The first of September 2013 came into force the new law «About education in the Russian Federation». According to one of the innovations a pupil must attend school in a school uniform, which establishes an educational organization.

There is no unified standard uniform in Russia, but it might consist of:

- dark skirts with red and green cells;
- blouses (not bright colour);
- black, navy or green pullovers;
- black, white or skin-colour tights.

Educational institutions don't have a certain dress-code.

There is also modern-day tradition for girls to dress into brown Soviet-style school uniform for their graduation ceremony.

3. RESEARCH

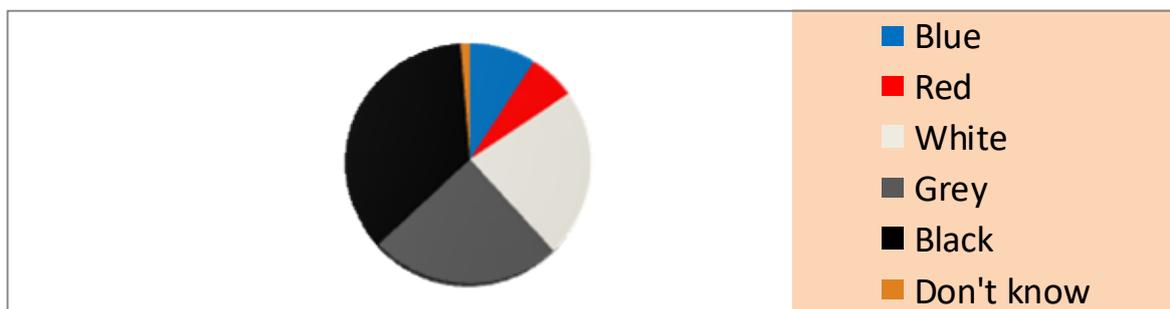
Having acquainted with history of school uniform in some countries of different ages and also compared them we have decided to do survey. With the help of the interview we have revealed advantages and disadvantages of the school uniform.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Not so expensive. Every family can afford to buy it.	School uniform suppress individuality because everybody looks the same.
School uniform makes children more disciplined.	By the end of the school year it becomes untidy and not pleasant to look at.
School uniforms reinforce the idea that all students are equal, despite a diversity of races and cultural backgrounds.	Have no use outside of school.
Modern clothes may distract some students from their study.	Make pupils a target for bullies from other schools.
School uniform help to avoid discrimination among pupils.	Don't feel comfortable in it. Teenagers should wear whatever they want.
It shows that a student belongs to a certain school. Increase a sense of belonging and school pride.	
A school uniform allows students to focus on their studies.	

The table shows the majority of pupils prefer school uniform instead modern clothes.

After it we conducted the questionnaires and have known how an ideal school uniform must look we have made our own design of the uniform.

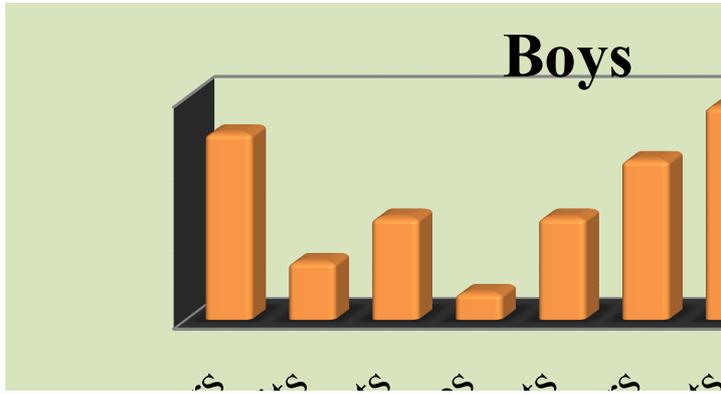
I asked some questions to students about what color of the uniform they would prefer. (Appendix 1)



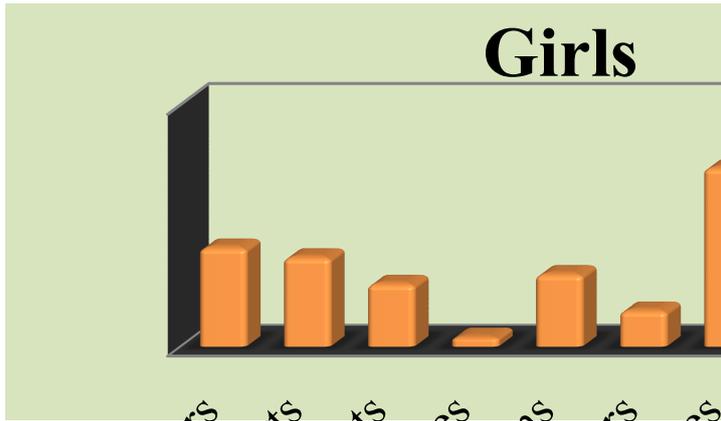
The findings have shown that the most preferable colors are black, white and grey.

Besides we decided to know what the best clothes are for the uniform. (Appendix 2)

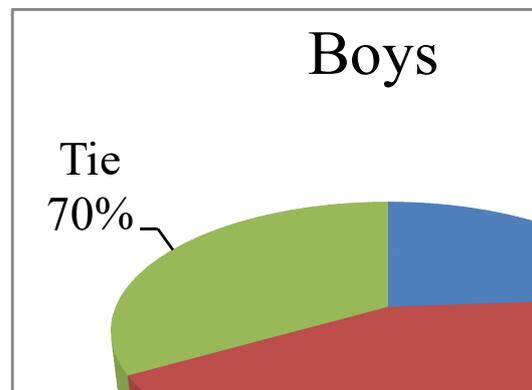
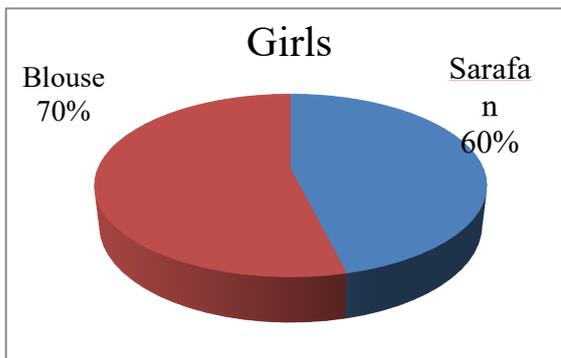
The boys prefer shirts, sweaters and trousers.



As regards of the girls they prefer blouses, trousers and skirts.



As for teachers they choose suits, shirts and ties for boys. For girls are blouses and sarafans.



As a result pupils of our school have made their own design of the uniform. (Appendix 3)

The main colours of the perfect school uniform are grey, black and white. The boys prefer shirts, sweaters and trousers. The girls would like to choose blouses, trousers and skirts.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion I would like to say our hypothesis has been proved. Students need school uniforms because it is convenient, practical and allows students to focus on their studies, it does not show the differences in social status of any student, it increases a sense of belonging and school pride.

Nowadays a school uniform is a very controversial and well-debated issue. But there are much more advantages than disadvantages in wearing a uniform.

SOURCES

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Appendix 1

What color of the uniform do you prefer?

1. Blue 
2. Red 
3. White 
4. Grey 
5. Black 
6. Do not know 

APPENDIX 2

What are the best clothes for the uniform?

APPENDIX 3

Якушина К. 10 класс

Грищенко В. 10 класс

Якушина К. 10 класс

Пакова Д. 8 класс

Пакова Д. 8 класс

Грищенко В. 10 класс

Якушина К. 10 класс

Грищенко В. 10 класс

Иванова П. 5 класс