

Waste: LET'S... ...ESTABLISH A UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

LET'S GO
ZERO
2030

A recent survey by My Nametags found that 1.4 million school uniform items are thrown away each year. Many of these items, such as shirts, dresses and trousers, are made from materials including polyester and acrylic - which are 100% plastic. Their survey found that over 350 tonnes of plastic from uniforms end up in landfills each year, taking decades to break down. Here are some suggestions to avoid this waste.

SUGGESTED PATHWAYS TO CLIMATE ACTION

Statutory guidance

DfE Statutory Guidance.

DfE Guidance released in 2021 states that schools should ensure arrangements are in place so that second-hand school uniforms are available for parents to acquire (for example through periodic second-hand uniform sales or swap shops). All schools should ensure that information on second-hand uniforms is clear for parents of current and prospective pupils, and published on the school's website. This should clearly state where second-hand uniforms are available to be purchased.

Change mindsets!

Any stigma around wearing second-hand clothes can continue to become a thing of the past if we show our communities that it's part of a waste-free, sustainable and fairer society! Clothes selling sites like Depop and Vinted are popular amongst students; talking about them can be a great way to introduce the idea of a Uniform Exchange to your school community. Encourage parents to send in clean good condition uniform that has been outgrown and check your Lost Property pile for any un-named uniform in good condition too. Your community might prefer to donate money to charity in exchange for uniform.

Pop-up Boutique!

Freecycle

Check Freecycle or local networks for free storage to make your Pop Up Swap Shop look like a boutique that parents and pupils will want to browse in. This could be clothes rails and hangers, or shelving. Try to get items with wheels so they can be brought onto the playground or school hall for specific events - this could be Summer and Christmas Fairs, parents evenings, coffee mornings or even a weekly occasion. Get your pupil Eco Team to decorate with fairy lights, design some cool posters and practice their speaking skills by staffing the swap shop.

Local Supermarkets

Alternatively, get your Eco club to write letters to your local supermarkets asking for any ex-display furniture such as rails and hangers; they are usually very keen to help good causes.