Should School Uniforms be Abolished?

A recent poll conducted by the charity The Children's Society has revealed that 95% of mothers and fathers think that the cost of school uniform is too much, with many struggling to pay the high prices.

The average cost of a secondary school uniform is £316 a year and £251 for a primary school child. The Children's Society say this is too much for some parents, with many poor families ending up in debt or forced to cut back on basic essentials to pay for a school uniform for their child.

The charity also added that that the high cost of school uniforms is leaving many children at risk of bullying and embarrassment because their parents send them to school in incorrect uniform or ill-fitting uniform as they can't afford to buy their child a new uniform.

An analysis by The Children's society suggests that nearly 800,000 pupils go to school in ill-fitting uniforms and a further 400,000 have been sent home for wearing incorrect uniform because their parents cannot afford to keep buying them new uniform items.

Is this fair? Many pupils we asked said it was not fair. Some said their parents always complain about the cost of their school uniform, and how fast they grow out of it! However, most pupils just said it was unfair because they do not like wearing their school uniform and want to wear their own clothes.

Most parents we spoke to like their child wearing school uniform because they think they look "smarter" in uniform but the cost of uniform does concern them.

Some schools in England give pupils in their school a free school uniform in their first year in the school, while some schools give pupils free uniform items, like ties, to ease the cost for parents. Maybe this is a policy that all schools should adopt to prevent the risk of bullying and embarrassment for pupils and stress and debt for parents.

By the Buile Hill School Report team