



Nettlestone School Uniform Consultation

Consultation Outcomes 2025/2026



Consultation Timeline

Autumn Term 2025

Nov - Governors appraised of new DfE guidance and intent to review uniform

15 December 2025 - Pupil feedback gathered and shared with Governors (uniform views, comfort, preferences)

Spring Term 2 (March 2026)

Parents advised of forthcoming changes
Clear message issued: pause any significant new uniform purchases, ability to wear PE kit for Summer 2.

Summer Term 2 (June 2026)

Staff poll sent to request staff view on impact of uniform on teaching & learning

Parent consultation launched

17th July – final decision made by Governing Body



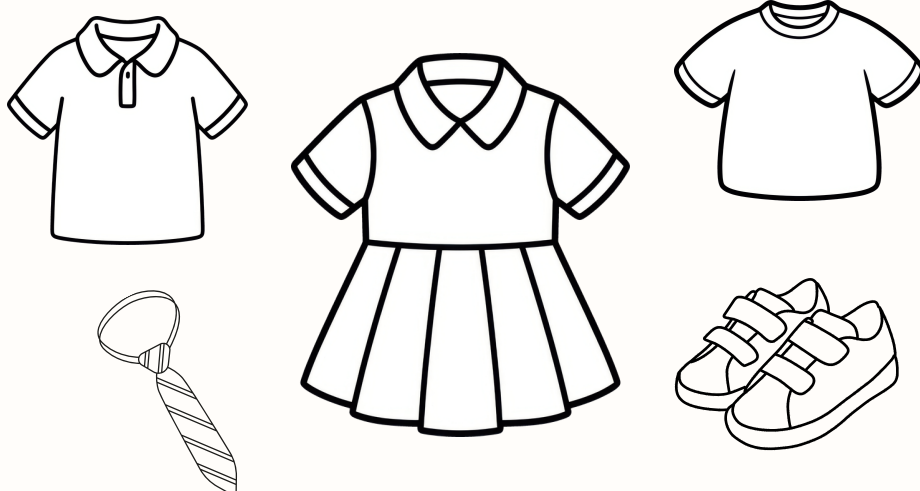
Making a Difference - Rationale for Change

Schools must ensure that uniform policies are:

- Affordable - no more than 3 branded items.
- Practical and comfortable
- Inclusive and non-discriminatory
- Clear, accessible, and consistently applied
- Reviewed regularly – our last full review was over 10 years ago!

Governing boards are expected to:

- Actively engage with all stakeholders – staff, parents and pupils when designing or changing uniform
- Take views into account, especially around cost and affordability
- Consider the impact on groups with protected characteristics
- Ensure the policy aligns with equalities and human rights legislation
- Think about how uniform supports safeguarding and other statutory duties
- Aim for their uniform policy to be as inclusive as possible and should be considerate in the implementation of their uniform policy so that all pupils are able to wear the uniform.



Making a Difference - Parent Feedback

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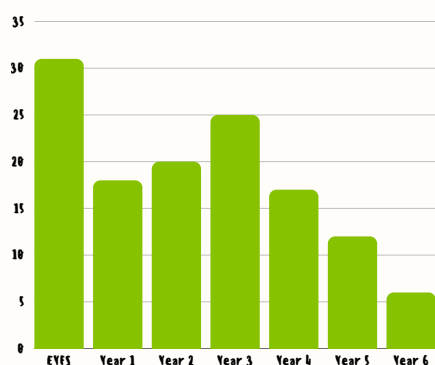
Survey Responses reflecting 62.8% of families

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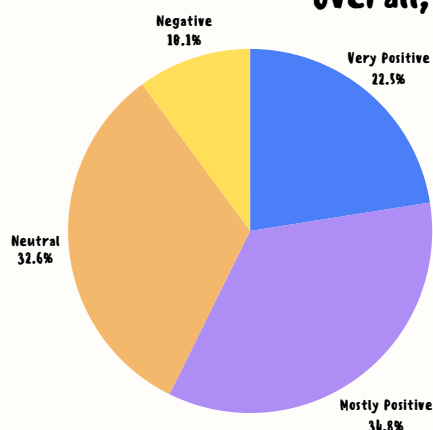
Percentage of families that did not respond

- 15 emails out of 145 families sent directly to the Governing Body– (1 family sent 3 emails another sent 2 sharing significant concerns.
- 4 emails out of 145 families sharing support for the proposed changes.
- 1 email cited support for active wear but urged consideration of other factors.

Parent Response From Each Year Group



Overall, how do you feel about our current traditional uniform?



The survey shows that while most people feel positive about our traditional uniform, there's a sizeable group who don't feel strongly attached to it. With over 4 in 10 respondents saying they're either neutral or negative, it's clear there's an opportunity to explore whether our uniform could better reflect the needs and preferences of our school community.

What do you like about the current uniform?



- Smart appearance
- Easy to wash
- Affordable
- Comfortable
- No strong feelings

What are the biggest challenges with the current uniform?



- Too expensive
- Too uncomfortable
- Too many separate items
- Not practical for play
- No strong feelings

If you could change 1 thing what would it be?

Parents told us they value comfort, practicality and affordability, with many suggesting polo shirts instead of shirts and ties, more breathable fabrics and fewer branded items. Combined with frequent comments about PE kit costs and flexibility, the feedback suggests there is significant support for exploring a uniform that better meets the needs of children and families.

Would you support moving to a single, more flexible, all-day uniform (e.g., an active/wellness-focused uniform) that eliminates the need for a separate PE kit?



Almost half of parents (43.8%) said they would fully support moving to a single, flexible all-day uniform, while fewer than a third (29.2%) preferred to keep the traditional approach.

Together with the many comments about comfort, practicality and cost, this suggests there is significant interest in exploring a uniform that works better for children throughout the whole school day.

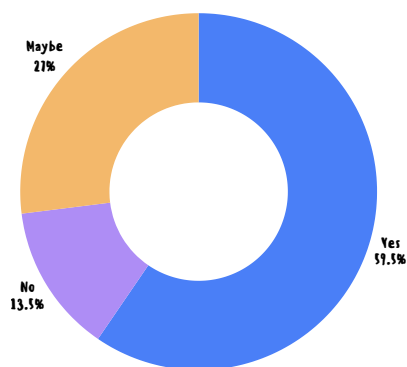
What features would most improve your child's daily comfort?



- **Softer, breathable fabrics (like cotton or performance sports blends) - 79.8%**
- **Stretchy waistbands, no stiff buttons/zips - 53.6%**
- **Activewear options like joggers/leggings - 38.1%**
- **Fewer layers/items to worry about - 34.5%**
- **More flexibility based on the weather - 54.8%**

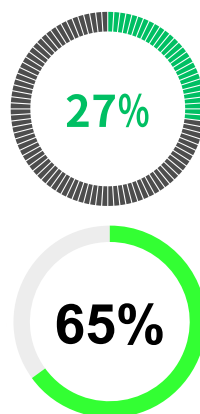
Parents told us that comfort really matters, with nearly 8 in 10 favouring softer, more breathable fabrics and over half wanting clothing that is easier to wear and more adaptable to the weather. These results suggest there is a strong case for exploring a modern uniform that helps children feel comfortable, active and ready to learn all day long.

Does the current uniform work well for daily school life, including travelling (walking/cycling) to school safely?



Many parents told us that the main challenge with the current uniform is comfort, particularly shirts, ties, traditional trousers and some of the fabrics used. Several comments also highlighted that a more practical, flexible uniform would better support active children, those with sensory needs, and everyday activities such as walking, cycling and playing.

How do you find the total cost of our current uniform?



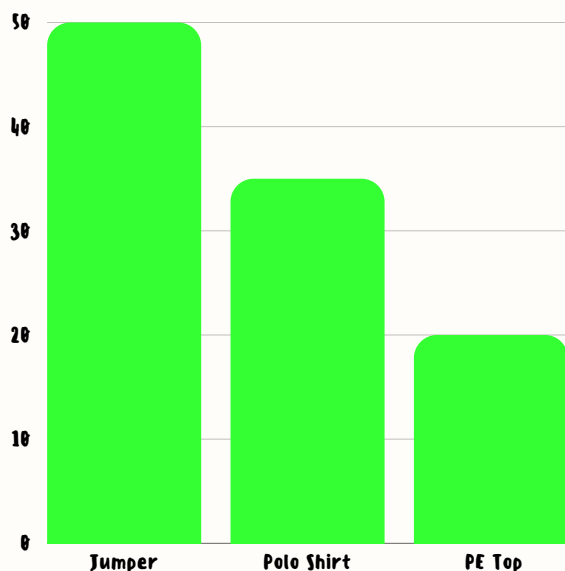
Financial Strain



Reasonable

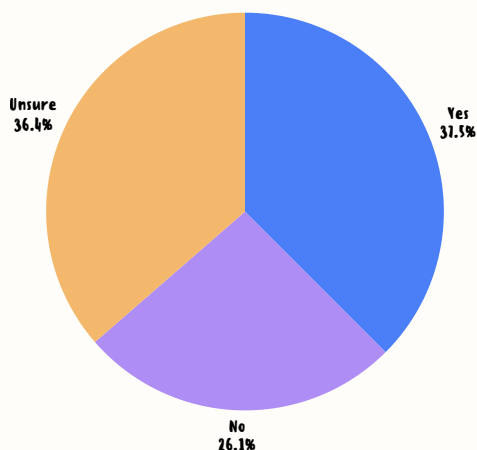
Although most families told us the cost of school uniform is manageable, more than one in four said it can put a strain on household finances. By looking at ways to make uniform simpler, more flexible and less reliant on specialist or branded items, we have an opportunity to help reduce costs and make things a little easier for families.

To keep costs low, the DfE recommends a maximum of 3 branded items. Governors believe that our logo promotes belonging but which items actually need the school logo?



Parents told us they are happy for the school logo to remain on a small number of key items, especially jumpers and cardigans, which were by far the most popular choices. At the same time, many families felt there were simply too many branded items and would welcome a simpler approach that keeps school identity while giving parents more choice, flexibility and help with keeping costs down.

Do you feel our uniform approach meets the needs of all children (including those with sensory needs or different cultural/religious requirements)?

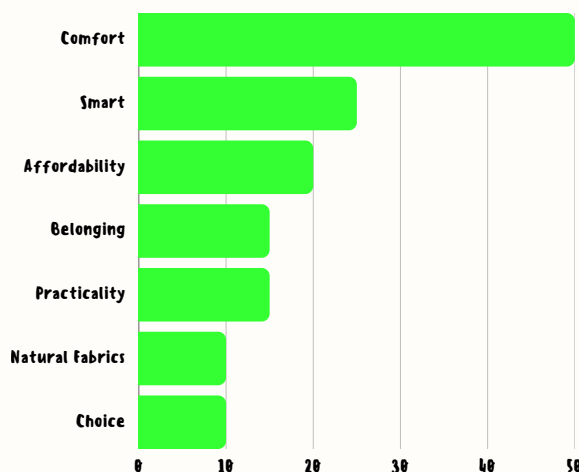


While many parents feel the current uniform works well for their own child, the results suggest there is less confidence that it works for everyone. Only 37.5% of respondents felt the current uniform meets the needs of all children, while 62.5% either felt it doesn't or were unsure, highlighting an opportunity to think more broadly about the needs of the whole school community.

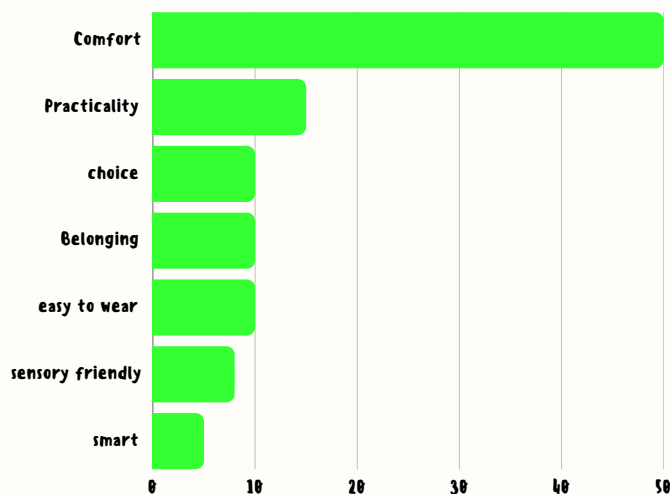
Many parents spoke positively about the smart appearance, sense of belonging and tradition of the current uniform. At the same time, others shared experiences of children struggling with sensory needs, uncomfortable fabrics, restrictive clothing and difficulties with movement and activity. Several parents commented that flexibility is key to inclusivity, recognising that what works well for one child may not work for another.

As we consider any future changes, it's important to look beyond our own child's experience and think about the wide range of children and families in our school. The aim is not to remove the pride and identity that parents value, but to explore whether a more flexible approach could help every child feel comfortable, included and ready to learn.

In a few words, what matters most to you when it comes to school uniform?

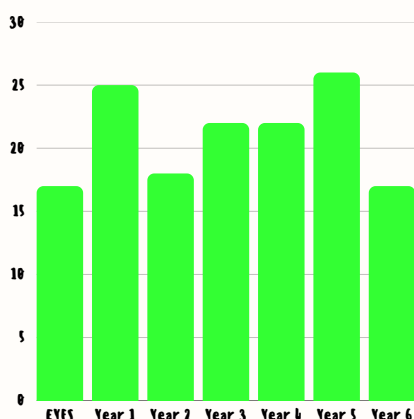


In a few words, what matters most to your child when it comes to school uniform?



What really stood out from the survey is that parents and children are broadly aiming for the same thing, but from different perspectives. Parents are trying to balance lots of factors such as comfort, cost, smart appearance and school identity, while children are much more straightforward, overwhelmingly telling us that they simply want to feel comfortable, able to move freely and enjoy their day.

Feedback from Pupils from Samples- who would like to wear an active style uniform?



77

After viewing samples 77% of children are keen to wear the new designs to school.

Feedback from Staff from Samples

"smart, comfy, practical"

"ideal for active play"

"Easy to wash, wear and buy from where I shop"

The current uniform is described as having "too many varieties," which is tricky to enforce and police.

There is high buy-in from staff members who would "love to wear" the uniform themselves

You Said We Did...

Dark colours will absorb the heat.

After listening to feedback from families and exploring different uniform options, we're introducing a Forest Green logo polo shirt for Nettlestone. It keeps the school's recognisable green identity while giving children a comfortable, practical and easy-to-wear option that works well both in the classroom and during warmer months.

Heavy nylon will be sweaty in the summer

Many parents told us that comfort and breathable fabrics were really important, so we went back to the drawing board and explored different options. The result is our new 'Air Flow' polo shirt, which is much lighter and cooler than the original sample, helping children stay more comfortable whether they're in the classroom, on the playground or being active throughout the day.

We would prefer a cotton top.

To give families as much choice as possible, children can wear a plain cotton T-shirt in the correct school colour if that works better for them. Parents are free to buy these from any retailer, helping to keep costs down and making it easier to find fabrics that suit their child's needs, and for those who would like a logo, Kids & Co can add the school badge to suitable items.

What about summer dresses?

We know lots of children love summer dresses, but after looking at all the feedback we felt a skort gives children more freedom to move, play and take part in all activities comfortably throughout the day. It looks like a skirt but has built-in shorts, helping children feel confident and maintaining their dignity during active play, while also supporting safeguarding and practical participation in all aspects of school life. Because it's a non-branded item, families can buy it from a range of retailers, giving more choice and helping to keep costs down.

Please have a suitable transition period for the new uniform.

We know that changing uniform can be expensive, so we want to make the move as easy as possible for families. As this is the first full review of our uniform in over 10 years, new starters will wear the new uniform from September 2026, while children already at Nettlestone will have until September 2027 to make the switch, giving families time to replace items naturally as children grow.

Thank you for making a difference!

Consultation Activities

We wanted to make sure everyone had plenty of opportunities to share their views throughout the consultation.

To do this, we:

- ✓ Maintained a visible presence around school, with senior leaders available for informal conversations and questions.
- ✓ Offered opportunities for face-to-face discussions and verbal feedback.
- ✓ Attended Stay and Play sessions to discuss uniform ideas with new families.
- ✓ Provided suggestion boxes for those who preferred to share views privately.
- ✓ Held Parent Forum meetings, with Governors present, to gather feedback and discuss options.
- ✓ Invited parents to share views and ask questions via email throughout the consultation period.
- ✓ Created opportunities for pupil voice, ensuring children could share their thoughts and preferences.
- ✓ Included questions about uniform in pupil leadership interviews, with Governors involved in the process.
- ✓ Made sample uniform items available at Meet the Teacher events, when large numbers of parents were in school.
- ✓ Clearly communicated that sample items were examples only and not final designs, but intended to show a possible direction of travel.
- ✓ Provided opportunities for staff to view, trial and comment on sample items.

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share their views. The final proposals have been shaped by the wide range of feedback received from parents, pupils, staff and governors throughout this process.

Our new uniform policy can be found on the school website.

