
Technical Appendix

School uniformⁱ

Very low or no impact for very low cost, based on very limited evidence



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Definition

School uniform is the clothing pupils are required to wear at school. Uniforms vary from the very formal (requiring blazers) to more informal (involving just a school sweatshirt). Schools have uniforms in different styles and colours to identify pupils as attending a particular institution. Uniforms are required in most schools in the UK.

Search Terms: school uniform

Evidence Rating

There are no systematic reviews or meta-analyses of well-controlled interventions of a school uniform policy. The evidence rests mainly on correlational studies that have compared the performance of schools with uniforms to those without, or that have examined a school's trajectory of improvement after the introduction of school uniform. The most rigorous reviews and analyses have so far been unable to establish a causal link, but speculate that adoption of a uniform policy may provide a symbolic and public commitment to school improvement. Overall, the evidence is rated as very limited.

Cost Information

The costs associated with introducing a school uniform are very low and mainly depend on parents buying the uniform instead of other clothing the child would wear.

References

1. *Brunsmas, D.L. & Rockquemore, K.*

[Examining the effects of student uniforms on attendance, substance abuse, disciplinary behavior problems, academic achievement](#)
Journal of Educational Research 92 pp 53-62

(1998)

2. *Brunsma, D.L. & Rockquemore, K.*

Statistics, sound bites and school uniforms: a reply to Bodine
Journal of Educational Research 97.2 pp 72-77

(2003)

3. *Reynolds, B.A.*

An analysis of the evidence produced by quantitative research on the effects of school uniforms on student discipline and academic achievement
PhD thesis submitted to the faculty of Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City, Utah

(2004)

4. *Samuels, K.S.*

The relationship of school uniforms to students' achievement, attendance, discipline referrals and perceptions: an analysis of one school district
PhD dissertation University of Alabama at Birmingham

(2003)

5. *Sowell, R. E.*

The relationship of school uniforms to student attendance, achievement, and discipline
Doctoral dissertation, Liberty University

(2012)

6. *Yeung, R.*

Are school uniforms a good fit? Results from the ECLS-K and the NELS
Educational Policy, 23(6), 847-874

(2009)

Summary of effects

Meta-analyses	Effect size	FSM effect size	
Single Studies			
Samuels, K.S. (2003)	0.03	-	Language arts
	-0.06	-	Mathematics
Sowell, R. E. (2012)	0.02	-	Reading
Yeung, R. (2009)	0	-	Reading (2nd grade)
Median effect size	0.01		

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