

17. School uniform

Unit 4 Step 9

Before watching

- 1 Vocabulary:** look at the words in the box – check the meanings of any words you don't know. Circle the words which would you expect to be part of a school uniform / dress code. Then, check your answers with another student.

a skirt • T-shirt • a blazer • ponytail • training shoes • black shoes • a tie • jeans • a dress • plimsolls • polo shirt • black trousers • a tracksuit • a grey sweater • a striped shirt or blouse • a suit • a blue / grey shirt or blouse • jumper

- 2 Speaking:** work with a partner. Answer these questions with a partner.

- What do you usually wear to school?
- Is there anything you wouldn't wear?
- Do you notice the difference between your own clothes and those of other students (in terms of price, brands etc)?

While watching

- 3 Watch the whole video and tick the words from the exercise 1 that you hear.**

- 4 Watch the first part of the video again (up to 00.48) and answer the following questions.**

1. According to Fred, is uniform common in Britain for students of his age?
.....
2. What colour is Fred's suit?
.....
3. What colour is the blazer for the younger age groups?
.....

- 5 Watch again from 00.49 to 01.58 and complete the table. Indicate in the first column what they wear and in the last two columns if they like their uniform or not, stating the reasons if given.**



Rebecca

Sandy

Frankie



Rachel

Mike

Name	Uniform	Likes	Dislikes
Rebecca			
Sandy			
Frankie			
Rachel			
Mike			

- 6 Watch again from 01.59 to 02.35 and answer the following questions.**

1. How does Rebecca think students can make themselves "unique" if they have to wear uniform?
.....
2. What does Mike use to make himself look unique?
.....
3. And Rebecca?
.....

7 Listen again to the headteacher from 02.36 to the end and complete the summary of what he says (the first letter is given in each case).

If a student comes to school with trainers, he is given a pair of (1) b....., (2) p..... by the school.
If students come to lessons without a pen or their planner they receive a (3) d.....
He says that (4) s..... are high in the school and that students should be (5) p..... to wear their school uniform.

After watching

8 Speaking: discuss these questions in small groups.

- What do you think of school uniforms?
- Are there any specific advantages of having a uniform?
- What do you think of what the headteacher says at the end?
- Would you like to go to this school? (give reasons for your choice)

9 In groups of 3, design a new dress code for boys and girls in your school. List what you decide is acceptable and not acceptable, including accessories like earrings, rings etc.

Exchange with another group and comment on their dress code, comparing with your own rules.

10 Reading exercise. Read the text and decide if the statements that follow it are True (T) or False (F).

Most British schools have a dress code which tells pupils what they can and can't wear. Boys' uniforms often consist of a blazer, dark short or long trousers and light-colored shirt, often with a tie. Girls' uniforms typically consist of a dress or a blouse worn with a skirt.

School blazers vary in colour and often make use of badges to identify the student's school. A blazer or suit-like jacket for either gender is also fairly common, especially in countries with relatively cold weather. While some countries have school uniforms that are essentially standard in all schools, in others each school has an individual uniform.

School uniforms were introduced a long time ago, in fact as long ago as during of King Henry VIII's reign. Uniforms became more popular in Britain when free primary education was introduced for all children in 1870, with the Elementary Education Act. The popularity of uniforms increased and eventually most schools had a uniform. The purpose of school uniform has always been to provide low cost clothing and to reduce differences that would be made evident if students could wear what they want. In this early period most uniforms reflected the trends of the age, with boys wearing short trousers and blazers until roughly the age of puberty and then long trousers from about 14 or 15. Girls mainly wore blouse, tunic dress and pinafores.

School uniforms are required to be fair for both genders, and tolerate religious freedoms e.g. allowing Sikhs to wear turbans and Muslims to wear headscarves. However, not all schools have a school uniform in Britain, especially the more modern or progressive ones.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Girls usually have to wear ties. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. School uniforms vary from school to school in some countries. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. School uniforms are quite a recent invention. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The purpose of uniforms is to encourage equality among students. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Boys have always worn long trousers. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. School uniforms make concessions for different religious needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. All British schools have a uniform of some type. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |