Importance of School Uniform

In some countries, e.g. Britain and many Caribbean states, it is common for school pupils to wear distinctive uniforms identifying them with a particular institution, especially till the end of compulsory education at 16. In others, e.g. France, the USA, it is rare for uniforms to be worn, although some private schools may retain them. In both situations the desirability of school uniforms remains controversial among students, parents and educationists. As a result of this some schools have abandoned uniform at the same time as others have adopted it.

When we are disciplined everything around us automatically falls in its place. I feel that so does school uniform. It helps to create strong school ethos and a sense of belongingness to a particular community. As it teaches discipline so it also helps to drive up academic standards.

Uniform also acts as a social leveller. It inhibits worrying endlessly about ones appearances and the clothes. Pupils without expensive designer clothes are not singled out as social outcasts or stigmatized as having poor backgrounds. It saves money on buying clothes for school. When students are not distracted they would certainly concentrate more on their academics.

Uniform has practical benefits when students are outside the school building. Being readily identified with a particular institution may make students more aware of their behavior while travelling to and from the school, leading them to act more considerately, e.g. to other passengers on buses or trains. On organized trips away from the school it is much easier for teachers to ensure they haven’t lost anyone and to monitor behavior, than if students wore their own clothes and blended in with the crowds.

Uniform prepares students for life after education. When most will be expected to dress smartly, they would certainly work smartly and give fruitful results in all spheres of life.

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