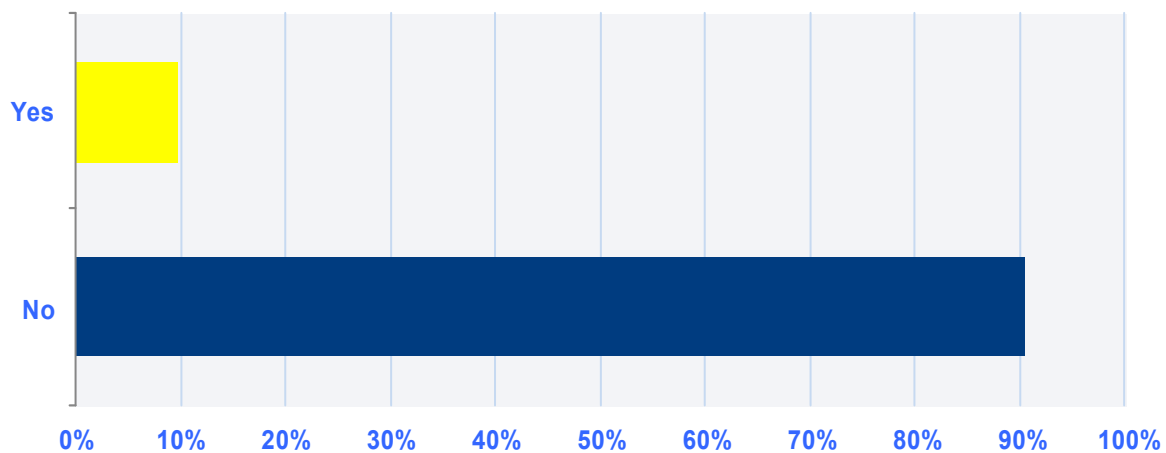




Should Female Students Have To Wear A traditional 'Girl' Uniform?



With the negative education impacts of gender stereotypes on girls, SAASSO asked parents and school staff if it is time to rethink making them wear the traditional girls uniform.

82.50% of respondents were female. 41.79% of respondents work in a school. 88.50% were parents.

Asked if females should have to wear a girls uniform:

- 90.50% said, 'No'.
- 9.50% said, 'Yes'.

25% of men believed females should wear a 'girl' uniform, compared with 6% of women.

100% of principals voted against females being required to wear a 'girl' uniform. However a quarter of teachers voted to continue with a 'girl' uniform.

Asked if schools should still have uniforms:

- 90.55% voted, 'Yes'.
- 9.45% voted, 'No'.

25% of principals think we should get rid of school uniforms. Half of deputy principals voted to retain uniforms. Teachers were the most supportive of retaining school uniforms.

Gender also played a significant role:

- 93% of women want school uniforms.
- 76% of men want school uniforms.

One in three respondents believe school uniforms are discriminatory. On this question, there was little difference in opinion between men and women.

One in two deputy principals view girls uniforms as discriminatory. Only 15% of teachers shared this opinion.

From the many comments submitted, it seems a number of SA's public schools already have flexible school uniform options for girls.

There is also a growing trend of schools choosing a school dress code, rather than a specified school uniform.

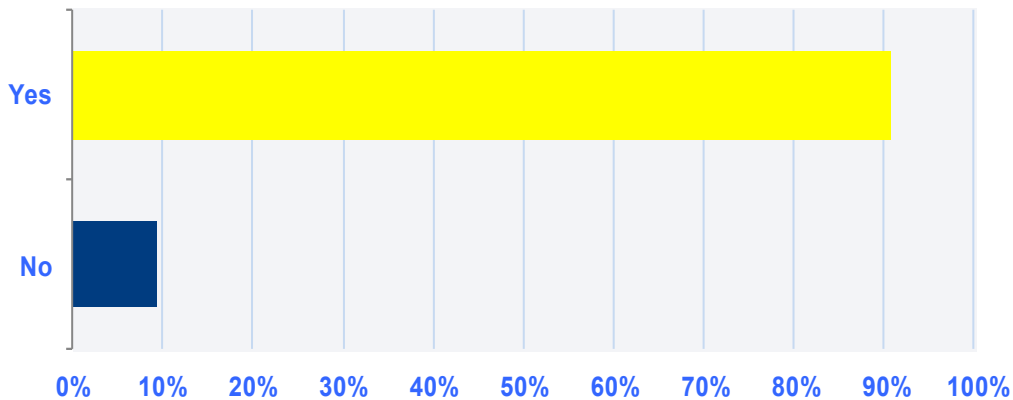
A number of parents expressed concern at the cost of school uniforms - compared with the cost of retail casual clothing.

Some parents and educators also believe students should wear more casual attire, such as track pants and tops, instead of the more formal, traditional pants and shirts.

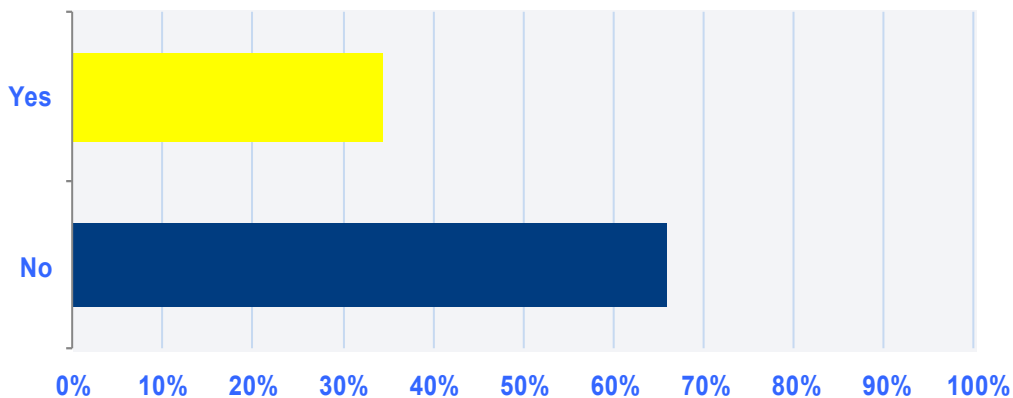
“...What century are we living in where girls are expected to dress in pretty little dresses??”



Should schools still have uniforms?



Are school uniforms discriminatory?



“Oh for God's sake where is this coming from. I am massively against the 'Safe Schools' program. This is being pushed onto us by people with a left wing political agenda and I suspect it's the same people pushing the female uniform discrimination agenda too.”

“This issue is just another right wing attack on public schools.”

Selected Comments



High schools have a culture of treating teenagers like children, while expecting them to behave like adults. There should be a dress code but no uniform.

Students should be able to wear any part of the uniform.

Comfortable options should be available to all students, including cargo pant/short type pants, rather than "business" type shorts/pants that only work for skinny girls.

School uniforms should all be aimed at comfort. The traditional "PE" uniform should no longer be only for PE.

I also think there are much more critical issues for schools and SAASSO to be focussing on than this minority group getting so much air time from the media ie aren't transgender people 1% of the population???

Schools need to offer choices - dress, skirt, shorts, long pants. Uniforms for primary schools could easier be fixed by offering skirts instead of a skirt. If do not want to have too many choices can then just offer shorts or long pants for all students.

Girls should be allowed to wear what they are comfortable in.

Uniforms should be practical - whilst boys can run around easily in their uniform, the girls' uniform is far more restrictive and uncomfortable.

I definitely support compulsory uniforms - makes it easier for teachers to identify if anyone is at the school who doesn't belong, is easier for parents to manage and reduces competition among kids.

I think we should move away from traditional uniforms and have a comfortable uniform ie. shorts, polos, tracksuit pants, keeping children more comfortable surely enhances learning?

I am Governing Council Chair person of our school, we are currently reviewing our uniform policy, we don't make our girls wear skirts or dresses, however they are available to those if they wish, including transgender or intersex etc..

They need to be flexible eg just a colour code rather than prescriptive types of pants and financial hardships for families needs to be considered inexpensive clothing items need to be available for public schools.

Why shouldn't girls be able to dress nicely. Why do we want to make boys and girls dress the same. I think an issue could be with dresses being impractical for sport & cartwheels etc. But if tights are worn underneath or maybe some nicely designed pants for girls that wish to wear them.

School uniforms at the school my children access are gender neutral, and that by dressing girls as "girls" - in dresses etc. could impact heavily on socio-economic underprivileged families and single parents.

My 15 year-old raised this with me as an issue.

What's next - hairstyles? Let's get a grip on reality shall we?

This issue is just another right wing attack on public schools.

What century are we living in where girls are expected to dress in pretty little dresses??

School uniforms are only discriminatory if there is no choice- if girls are told they have to wear a skirt or dress with no option of shorts or pants, then it is discriminatory.

Our school provides uniform at low cost (and no cost for some families) Students overall seem happy with dress code.

Girls should have same or similar shorts and long pant options as boys. Skirts are not practical in young children when playing. older children should be able to choose pants/shorts or skirt.

Our school is a high school and our female students have the option of wearing a dress/skirt if they wish however the majority of our students wear shorts/track pants or trousers.

Skirts encourage sedentary behaviour. It's bad for health.

Working closely with parents, I strongly believe that uniforms help, especially in a low socio economic area like the Fleurieu. If children all wear uniforms then there is no perceived "bias" and all children are equal.

I am firmly of the belief that a gender neutral simple uniform i.e. same colour hoodie, polo shirt for all and choice of tracky pants or shorts is a good idea. This uniform should be the same across genders.

Girls should feel comfortable in the clothes they wear. They should be able to wear shorts/ trousers if they want to.

I think they should have an option to wear a dress or pants. Just like adult women, the decision is theirs to make.

No they shouldn't have to wear "girls uniforms".

Sometimes it is not practical for the girls to be wearing a dress when they have physical education lessons to attend. Plus not all girls like wearing dresses/skirts all the time.

School uniform is very expensive not even available in the town nearest stockist 200 kms away crazy.

I don't see any need for uniform policies that are so rigid and don't allow for children to be individuals.

Wear something smart but practical

Our school provides uniforms school colour children and parents choose what they the child wears not told because you are a boy/girl this is your uniform. The cost of school uniforms concern me.

Girls should have an option in wearing gender neutral uniform.

Having to wear skirts in winter is tantamount to child abuse, likewise synthetic clothing in summer.

We now have embraced the active school philosophy and have short and long sleeve polo, rugby top and zip jacket. This is now a totally unisex uniform.

School uniforms that are gender neutral should be encouraged.

Oh for God's sake where is this coming from. I am massively against the 'Safe Schools' program. This is being pushed onto us by people with a left wing political agenda and I suspect it's the same people pushing the female uniform discrimination agenda too.