Newchurch 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

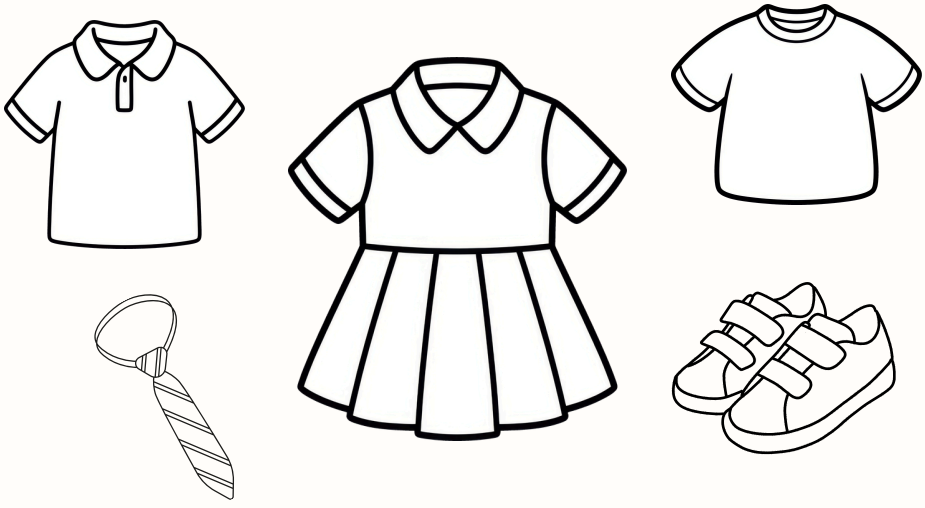
Making a Difference - Rationale for Change

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 review full 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.



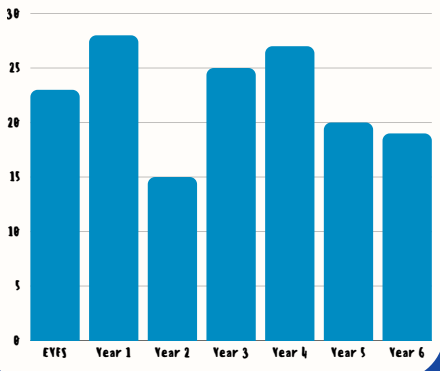
Making a Difference - Parent Feedback

125 Survey Responses reflecting 75% of families

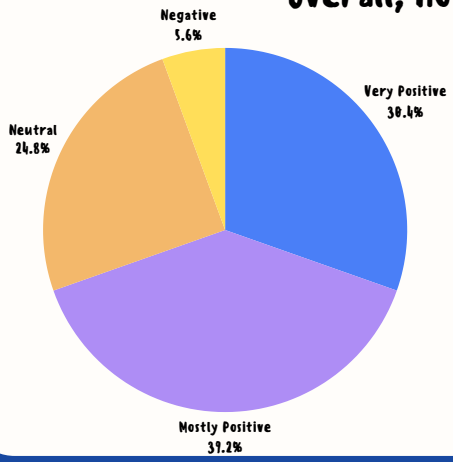
25 Percentage of families that did not respond

- 1 email sharing support for the proposed changes sent directly to the Governing Body.

Parent Response From Each Year Group



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



It's clear that many parents are happy with the current uniform, with almost 7 in 10 describing their views as positive. At the same time, around 3 in 10 parents either felt neutral or negative, suggesting there is room to consider whether some changes could better meet the evolving needs of our children while still keeping the strong sense of identity and pride that families value at Newchurch.

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What do you like about the current uniform?

TOP 5

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

What are the biggest challenges with the current uniform?

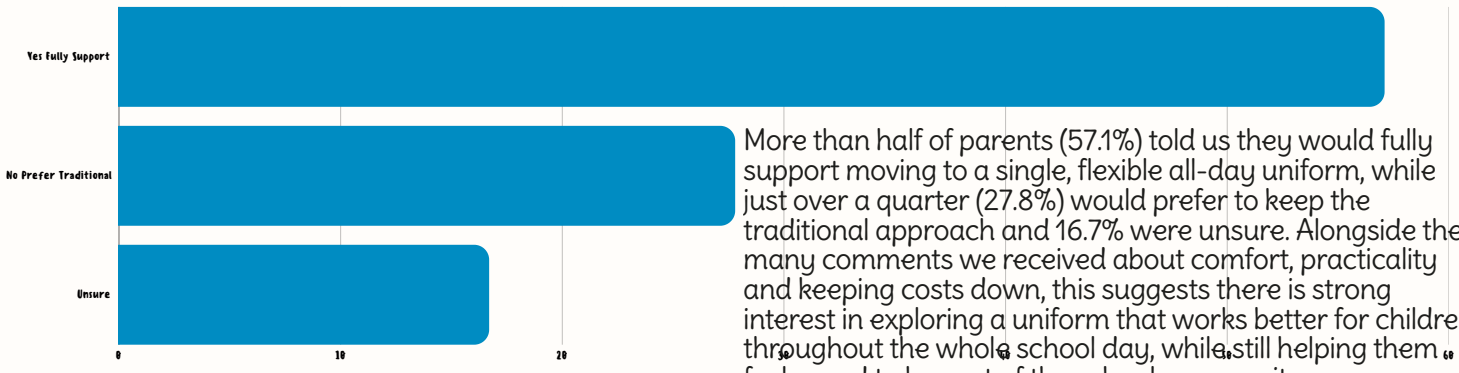
TOP 5

- 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 want a uniform that is comfortable, practical and affordable. Many suggested replacing shirts, ties and blazers with polo shirts, reducing the number of branded items and making uniform simpler and cheaper to buy. There were also lots of comments about the cost of PE kit and having separate uniforms for different parts of the day, with many parents supporting a more flexible approach that still keeps a strong sense of pride in being part of the Newchurch community.

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?



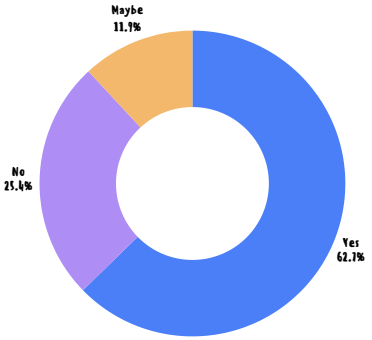
More than half of parents (57.1%) told us they would fully support moving to a single, flexible all-day uniform, while just over a quarter (27.8%) would prefer to keep the traditional approach and 16.7% were unsure. Alongside the many comments we received about comfort, practicality and keeping costs down, this suggests there is strong interest in exploring a uniform that works better for children throughout the whole school day, while still helping them feel proud to be part of the school community.

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

- Softer, breathable fabrics (like cotton or performance sports blends) - 71.8%
- Stretchy waistbands, no stiff buttons/zips - 53.8%
- Activewear options like joggers/leggings - 55.6%
- Fewer layers/items to worry about - 42.7%
- More flexibility based on the weather - 64.1%

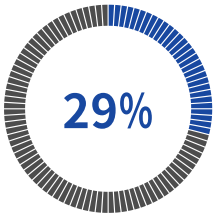
Parents told us loud and clear that comfort really matters. Over 7 in 10 parents (71.8%) said they would like softer, more breathable fabrics, 64.1% wanted clothing that is more flexible for different weather conditions, and more than half supported stretchy waistbands (53.8%) and activewear-style options such as joggers or leggings (55.6%). Taken together, this feedback suggests there is strong support for exploring a more comfortable and practical uniform that helps children stay active, feel confident and focus on learning throughout the school day.

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



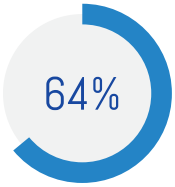
Parents who commented on this question talked about comfort and practicality. Many of our families travel to school by car, meaning active travel may not be a daily consideration for everyone, several parents highlighted that shirts, ties, blazers and some fabrics can feel hot, restrictive or uncomfortable, particularly during active play, warmer weather or for children with sensory needs. There were also comments about skirts being less practical for cycling and concerns about clothing staying wet after rain. Overall, the feedback suggests there is an opportunity to explore a more comfortable, breathable and flexible uniform that helps children feel confident, active and ready to learn throughout the school day.

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



Financial Strain

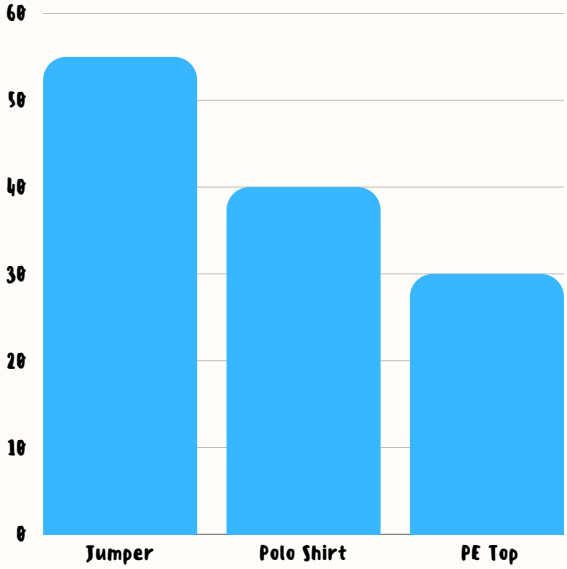




Reasonable

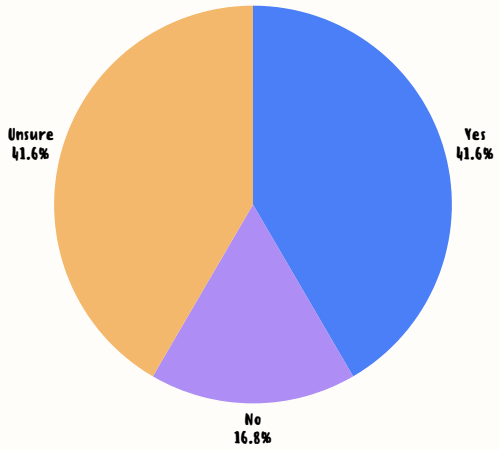
Although most families (64%) told us that the cost of school uniform is reasonable, almost a third (29%) said it can put a strain on household finances. This suggests there is an opportunity to make uniform more affordable by reducing reliance on specialist or branded items, giving families more flexibility over where they buy uniform and helping to keep costs down for everyone.

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'd still like to see the school logo on a few key items, especially jumpers and cardigans, with school tops also proving popular. However, many families felt there are currently too many branded items and would welcome a simpler approach that keeps a clear Newchurch identity while giving parents more choice about where they shop and helping to keep uniform costs down.

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

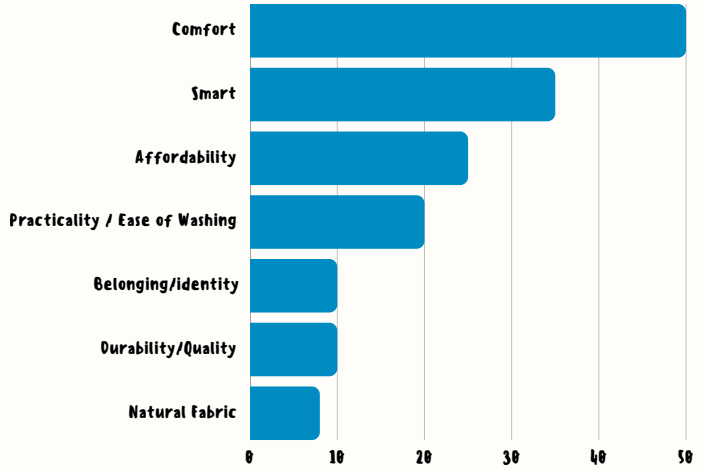


While many parents feel the current uniform works well for their own child, the results suggest there is less confidence that it works for everyone. Only 41.6% of respondents felt the current uniform meets the needs of all children, while 58.4% either felt it doesn't or were unsure, highlighting an opportunity to think more broadly about the needs of the whole school community.

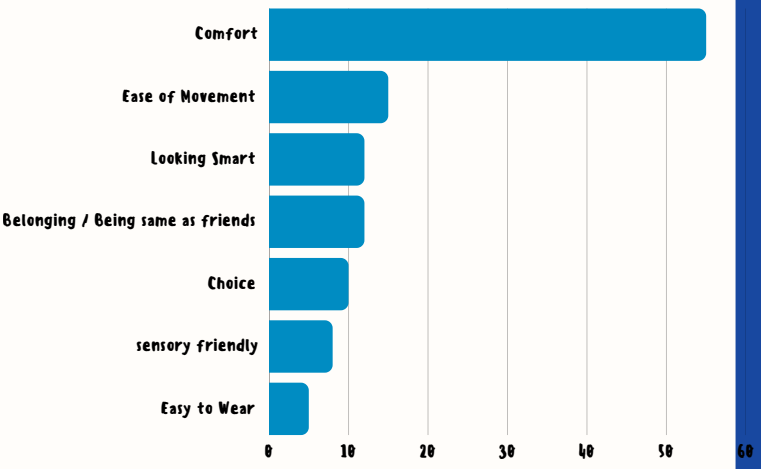
Many parents spoke positively about the smart appearance, sense of belonging and tradition of the current uniform. At the same time, others shared experiences of children struggling with sensory needs, uncomfortable fabrics, restrictive clothing and difficulties with movement and activity. Several parents 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 want many of the same things, but they tend to prioritise them differently. Parents are trying to balance comfort with affordability, smart appearance, practicality and school identity, whereas children are much more clear-cut, overwhelmingly telling us that they want to feel comfortable, move freely, be active and get on with enjoying their day.

There was also some lovely common ground. Both parents and children talked about the importance of feeling part of the school community and taking pride in their school, but while adults often focused on cost, presentation and preparing children for the future, children were far more likely to talk about comfort, easy movement, feeling confident and being able to run, play and learn without feeling restricted.

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

80%

The pupil feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with around 4 out of 5 children saying they would be happy to wear the proposed uniform after seeing the samples. Support was consistently strong across all year groups, ranging from 74% in Year 4 to 83% in Year 3, suggesting that most children can see themselves feeling comfortable and confident in the new uniform.

Feedback from Staff from Samples

"smart, comfy, practical and "ideal for active play"

it is better to prioritise being "fit for purpose" over traditional "professionalism"

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

a "staff uniform" on a similar theme would promote a "fully inclusive" school environment

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 Royal Blue polo shirt for Newchurch. It keeps the school's recognisable smart blue 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 Newchurch 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.

