

# Top Tips for Affordable School Uniform



School uniforms can be a significant expense for families, but there are ways to reduce the cost. Below are some practical tips and resources to help you find affordable options and make the most of what's available in your community.

## Access Pre-Loved Uniforms

Contact your school's office to find out how you can access preloved uniforms. Many schools now have systems in place to distribute gently used logoed items to reduce waste and support families.

Pre-loved uniforms are often in great condition and come at little to no cost, easing the financial burden.

## shop Around

Supermarkets and high street retailers offer affordable options for items like shirts, trousers, skirts, and sports socks. Vinted and eBay can be treasure troves for uniform bundles, often at a fraction of the retail cost too!

## Avoid Unnecessary Purchases

Speak to other parents, friends, or check out school forums to find out which branded items are truly necessary. For example, does your child really need rugby boots for the first term, or are regular trainers acceptable? Schools should offer flexibility, so check before making big purchases.



# Explore second hand in your local community

Many local communities have Facebook groups or forums where parents buy, sell, or swap school uniforms. Check Facebook Marketplace for deals.

## Seek Financial Support

**Pupil Premium Grant (PPG):** Schools receive funding to support students from low-income families. While parents can't apply directly, it's worth asking your school if they can provide assistance, such as vouchers for uniform purchases.

**School uniform grants:** Some councils offer grants or vouchers to help with uniform costs. If you receive a means-tested benefit, you might qualify for additional support like Free School Meals, which could also come with uniform assistance.

**Local charities:** The Blue Coat Foundation in Ipswich is one example of a charity that supports families with school uniform costs, particularly for secondary school children. Referrals are made through council agencies.



## School Uniform Banks

Local community projects such as school uniform banks, or pop-up shops offer uniforms at low or no cost. These resources are often available through schools, local councils, or community centres.

### Need More Help?

If you're struggling with the cost of school uniforms, don't hesitate to reach out to your school or local council for advice. Help is often available to ensure every child has what they need to succeed.

If your school requires logo'd items, consider buying a generic sweatshirt and ironing on the badge yourself—it's often cheaper than purchasing from official suppliers.

