

Technical Appendix

Definition

School uniform is the clothing pupils are required to wear at school. Uniforms vary from the very formal (requiring blazers) to more informal (involving just a school sweatshirt). Schools have uniforms in different styles and colours to identify pupils as attending a particular institution. Uniforms are required in most schools in the UK.

Search Terms: school uniform

Evidence Rating

There are no systematic reviews or meta-analyses of well-controlled interventions of a school uniform policy. The evidence rests mainly on correlational studies that have compared the performance of schools with uniforms to those without, or that have examined a school's trajectory of improvement after the introduction of school uniform. The most rigorous reviews and analyses have so far been unable to establish a causal link, but speculate that adoption of a uniform policy may provide a symbolic and public commitment to school improvement. Overall, the evidence is rated as very limited.

References

- 1 *Brunsma, D.L. & Rockquemore, K.*
Examining the effects of student uniforms on attendance, substance abuse, disciplinary behavior problems, academic achievement [↗](#)
Journal of Educational Research 92 pp 53-62
(1998)
- 2 *Brunsma, D.L. & Rockquemore, K.*
Statistics, sound bites and school uniforms: a reply to Bodine [↗](#)
Journal of Educational Research 97.2 pp 72-77
(2003)
- 3 *Reynolds, B.A.*
An analysis of the evidence produced by quantitative research on the effects of school uniforms on student discipline and academic achievement [↗](#)
PhD thesis submitted to the faculty of Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City, Utah
(2004)
- 4 *Samuels, K.S.*
The relationship of school uniforms to students' achievement, attendance, discipline referrals and perceptions: an analysis of one school district [↗](#)
PhD dissertation University of Alabama at Birmingham
(2003)
- 5 *Sowell, R. E.*
The relationship of school uniforms to student attendance, achievement, and discipline [↗](#)
Doctoral dissertation, Liberty University
(2012)
- 6 *Yeung, R.*
Are school uniforms a good fit? Results from the ECLS-K and the NELS [↗](#)
Educational Policy, 23(6), 847-874
(2009)

Summary of effects

Single Studies	Effect size	FSM effect size	
Samuels, K.S. (2003)	0.03	-	Language arts
	-0.06	-	Mathematics
Sowell, R. E. (2012)	0.02	-	Reading
Yeung, R. (2009)	0.00	-	Reading (2nd grade)
Median effect size	0.01		

The right hand column provides detail on the specific outcome measures or, if in brackets, details of the intervention or control group.