

DRESSING FOR SCHOOL

More than 90% of English secondary schools have a **compulsory uniform**. The proportion in the US is lower but rising – from 12% in 2000 to 21.5% in 2016.

People who favor uniforms say that they can **reduce bullying** by hiding differences in wealth between students. It also prevents from students wearing **gang colors**, thus reducing tension between rival gangs.

Others say that this takes away a vital form of **self-expression** and may lead to higher levels of conformity.



Gang colors

identify someone as a member of a particular gang. They're often shown on bandanas, shoes or baseball caps.

In the US, uniforms are more common in schools:

- in cities,
- in poorer areas,
- with many Latino students.

In poorer areas, uniforms are generally an attempt to deal with gangs or poor discipline.

Latino families often come from Latin America where uniforms are much more common and so parents expect their children to wear them.



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