

Midlothian Council

Labour Group

Midlothian Council
25th June 2024

Notice of Motion

School Uniforms

Some time ago, Midlothian Council agreed to introduce school uniforms to our schools. This was partly to increase pride in each school and to encourage a sense of belonging, but also to recognise the peer pressure parents and carers were under to provide expensive brand name clothing for their children for school use.

Since the introduction of school uniforms some schools have required or requested that uniforms have the school's logos embroidered on these.

Over the years the cost of embroidered jerseys, sweatshirts, polo shirts and tee shirts has become far more expensive than buying plain coloured ones from retail or online stores. This is partly due to the fact that there is little competition in this market.

EXAMPLES

6 red polo shirts for 9-10 year old from M & S £24.00
6 red sweatshirts for 9-10 year old from M & S £36.00
Total **£60.00**

6 red polo shirts for 9-10 year old (embroidered logo) £88.20
6 red sweatshirts for 9-10 year old (embroidered logo) £103.20
Total **£191.40**

Using a relatively high-end supermarket this makes a saving of £131.40

It should be noted that from other retailers and supermarkets the cost of the store-bought items can be reduced even further.

We believe it is wrong, particularly given the huge pressure on family finances at this time, to pressure or require parents and carers to pay more for school clothing than they need to.

One of the main reasons for the introduction of school uniforms was to reduce the financial pressures on families. However, over time the way the policy has been implemented and evolved, has resulted in significant increases in costs and consequential pressures on family finances.

To rectify this problem Council agrees that all schools must immediately stop requiring or requesting parents and carers to purchase school clothing with embroidered school logos.

Moved:

Councillor Kelly Drummond



Seconded:

Councillor Stephen Curran

