

About

Rhyl High School, Denbighshire

1200 Learners

37% eligible for free school meals

Key areas being addressed

- ✓ Cost and affordability
- ✓ Promotion of School Essentials Grant
- ✓ Recycling
- ✓ Uniform Consultation with pupils, parents & carers, staff & Governors

Identified Need

Through our ongoing work with Children in Wales around Tackling the Impact of Poverty on Education we highlighted the need to review our school uniform and policy in light of the ongoing cost of living crisis. We identified the need to review the cost effectiveness of uniform, listening to concerns from pupils and parents and using the Welsh Government school uniform consultation guidance.

Costs of change

No cost to school of making school blazer an optional not compulsory item. Had to consider timeframes for suppliers ahead of orders for the following year.

Actions being taken

- ✓ **Initial discussions** held in school with pupils, parents/carers & Senior Leaders along with annual uniform recycling events at end of summer term of 22/23
- ✓ **Full uniform consultation** September to December 2023 which included:
 - Using Tackling Poverty on Education toolkit and shared **resources** to help develop key focus for the consultation
 - **Learners workshops**
 - **School council and a working party** who developed a **school wide survey** by taking the **WG school consultation questions** & shaping them to better fit school needs & the key concerns pupils had
 - Further development of **parents/carers survey**

Who is involved?

- ✓ School – pupils, staff and Governors
- ✓ Parents / carers

School: Learners' workshops, School Council & working party of pupils who helped develop the key focus of the consultation.

Parents / Carers: Focus groups initially and then wider survey sent to all.

Impact and outcomes

- ✓ Uniform consultation was a **positive opportunity to listen** to the concerns of pupils, parents/carers, staff and Governors
- ✓ **Increased engagement** with pupils and parents/carers around current impact of poverty
- ✓ **Pupils enjoyed taking a key role** in making meaningful and important school decisions
- ✓ **Better understanding** of the financial concerns around buying school uniform enabling reasonable adjustment to school uniform policy
- ✓ **Further emphasis on support** available both in school and with WG funding opportunities
- ✓ **We hope for increased engagement** with recommended changes from September '24

Barriers addressed

We allowed all stakeholders to have a say and an opportunity to be listened to in relation to school uniform and the impact of poverty on education

Advice to other schools

Empower young people by involving them in the process from the very start, giving them a voice and listening to their opinions on the issue.

Want to know more?

You can contact the school for further information about implementation: je@rhylhigh.co.uk