

United Against Bullying School Case Study: Adapting school uniform

How Canford Heath Junior School adapted school uniform

Context of our anti-bullying work

School uniform policy was changed from a list of boys' and girls' uniform to a non-gender specific list of uniform.

What we hoped to achieve

As a school we were having an increasing number of children who were identifying differently. By having separate uniform lists for girls and boys we felt it was adding to the stereotypes and not allowing these children to fully embrace how they were feeling and who they were.

The action we took

A generic uniform list was published which was not gender specific. Pupils have been allowed to select their uniform from the list which has allowed those children who identify differently to their gender at birth to wear what they are comfortable in.

Impact and outcomes of the work

Other pupils now see this a normal and feel able to wear what they like on mufti days too. Children are not having to hide what gender they are identifying as. It has also meant that those girls who wish to wear shorts rather than skirts or summer dresses are able to. Children have been educated alongside this so that they are aware of the new uniform policy and discussions have arisen explaining why some children may choose to wear something 'different'.

What we have learned

Allowing the children to be who they want to be. Educating others and realising children are more tolerant than you think they are.