



The Big Stitch-Up

How school uniform costs are punishing parents

Family Action

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Summary of report findings

- The average annual back-to-school cost – including uniforms, coats, bags and stationery – is £156 for a child at primary school and £285 for a child at secondary school, our survey found
- That means a family with one child at secondary school and one at primary may spend £441 over the summer. This represents nearly 40% of the August income of a single parent on the poverty line – and almost 30% of a couple's
- The majority of secondary schools expect parents to spend between £200 and £300, yet parents at some schools can fork out up to £600 per child
- Although primary schools are usually cheaper than secondary schools, some are still very expensive – with back-to-school costs reaching up to £180
- The biggest costs are for blazers (up to £89), jumpers (up to £27), and rugby shirts (up to £38)
- Schools are making onerous demands of parents. Requested items include £98 coats, jogging bottoms with the child's initials printed on them and even £22 straw boaters
- Some schools expect pupils to have a summer uniform as well as a standard one, plus a range of branded sports wear
- Parents of larger children have to pay nearly twice as much for larger size uniforms than they would for smaller sizes
- Other costs that schools may expect parents to meet are for textbooks, workbooks, art and craft materials, school trips and outings, and even iPads
- Schools have been known to change their uniform as often as twice in three years, prompting protests from parents
- Local authority grants for school uniforms are a postcode lottery, with many having scrapped their schemes completely
- Family Action recommends that schools should stop the sale of branded items from special shops, with the exception of school ties, and require parents to buy plain, standard clothing from any retailer of their choice
- In place of branded items, schools should introduce a badge into the uniform that is sold separately, at cost price, and added onto standard clothing later.

Introduction

Families on low incomes are struggling with the cost of equipping and kitting out their children for the start of the school year each September.

Never mind the latest trainers or clothing fashions – even providing for the basic every day costs of attending school are stretching the budgets of poorer parents.

According to a report by Aviva, the insurance company,¹ British parents are spending £1.9bn on school uniform, shoes and sports kit every twelve months. And while incomes have been squeezed during the recession the prices of many items remain high.

While these costs represent a particular challenge for low income parents, many families on middle incomes will also find them to be an unwelcome burden. It is clear that schools need to consider the impact of their school uniform policies on all families feeling the squeeze each year.

For this report, we investigated the cost of uniforms and sports kits at three primary and ten secondary schools across England. We also interviewed a number of low income parents about their experiences of paying for these and other costs.

Our survey of 13 schools (see **Back-to-school costs**, below) found the average annual cost for a child was £156 at primary school and £285 at secondary school. For a family with one child at primary and one at secondary that adds up to £441, representing nearly 40% of the monthly income of a single parent on the poverty line – and almost 30% of a couple's.

Department for Education guidance issued in 2012 says schools should “make certain” that school uniforms are affordable and be able to demonstrate to parents how best value has been achieved.² (see **What the Government says about school uniform**).

But according to an investigation by the Office for Fair Trading last year, almost three quarters of schools (and 94% of secondaries in particular), continue to place restrictions on where uniforms can be bought, which means higher prices for parents (see **Uniform prices – the big stitch-up**).

The worry is that, with more academies and free schools opening all the time, and treating school uniforms as central to branding, these additional costs could become onerous for growing numbers of families over the coming years (see **New academies – brand new costs**). There is little doubt that the increase in academies has resulted in a spike in demands for new uniforms. They also appear to favour a significant amount of branding on other items as well. While logos do serve a purpose, schools might stop and consider whether, for example, sports tops really require a logo. The DfE could play a constructive role here in ensuring that schools balance branding with affordability.

There is no comprehensive system of support in place to help low-income parents who cannot afford to buy their children's school uniform. Some local authorities still offer grants

¹ UK school bill soars by £6,000 per child over last five years, Aviva press release, 10 July 2013: www.aviva.co.uk/media-centre/story/17170/uk-school-bill-soars-by-6000-per-child-over-last-f/

² School Uniform: A Guide for Head Teachers, Governing Bodies, Academy Trusts, Free Schools and Local Authorities, DfE, August 2012: <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/school%20uniform%20guidance%202012.pdf>

or vouchers but others have scrapped their support schemes (see **Local authority grants – a patchy postcode lottery**).

Then there are the additional back to school costs, from stationery to text books to even, in a couple of cases, iPads (see **Other school costs – bring your own books**).

It is clear from our interviews with Family Action service users (see **Case studies – struggling parents speak out**) that while parents are concerned about the costs of many back-to-school items they are also worried about their children sticking out by wearing old, incorrect, ill-fitting or simply different clothing, and being picked on as a result. One of the reasons why schools have uniforms and other branded items is to prevent pupils' clothes from being seen as an economic status symbol. Uniform should help reduce differences but schools need to be aware that increasing the cost and the number of branded items available, even if they are optional, risks creating exactly the kind of inequalities and peer pressure that having a uniform is in part designed to avoid. If it is obvious which pupils are unable to afford the full uniform, the likelihood of stigma, and potentially bullying, will increase.

School uniform is not a bad idea in principle – many head teachers and parents are persuaded of its merits in supporting identity, discipline and good behaviour. However, the impact of back-to-school costs on family budgets are often significant and unwelcome, and these costs need to be constrained as far as possible.

That is why this report makes a number of recommendations about what needs to change to ensure that low-income families are not unfairly penalised, and that all children are given an equal chance as they get ready to go back to school (see **Recommendations for a fairer deal**).

About Family Action

Family Action has been a leading provider of services for vulnerable and disadvantaged families since 1869. We work with more than 45,000 families and children a year providing practical, emotional and financial support through more than 100 community based services across England. A further 150,000 people benefit from our educational grants and information service. We tackle some of the most complex and difficult issues facing families today – including domestic abuse, mental health problems, learning disabilities and severe financial hardship.

Family Action works in more than 130 schools in England to support parents and children. This is done through a range of services including family support to improve relationships between child and school and school and home, mentoring services to support children and young people at key transition stages, such as the move from primary to secondary school, individual casework and one-to-one support, and opportunities for leisure and fun through after school and lunchtime clubs or holiday activities. We also have experience of helping many disadvantaged and low income families who struggle to afford school uniforms.

Find out more at www.family-action.org.uk.

Back-to-school costs

This report reviews the costs of a range of items widely regarded as important for children to have when at school. They include:

- School uniform (shoes, socks, trousers, skirt, shirt, polo shirt, tie, jumper, blazer)
- PE kit (trainers, socks, shorts, top, gym bag)
- Coat and school bag
- Stationery for primary school pupils (pencil case, pen set, pencils), or:
- Stationery for secondary school pupils (pencil case, pen set, scientific calculator, USB, pencils, eraser, sharpener, maths set, English dictionary, French/German dictionary, glue stick, highlighter)

To estimate the average costs of kitting out and equipping a child at both primary and secondary school we studied the uniform lists at 13 state schools across the country.

The three primary schools we investigated were located in London and in Manchester.

The ten secondary schools were made up of five comprehensive schools, three academies and two grammar schools. Locations included Hampshire, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Greater Manchester, Norfolk and Greater London.

Where schools require items to be bought from the school itself or one or more specific suppliers, we have cited the prices listed. As we shall explore below, this has the effect of increasing the costs for parents. Where items can be bought anywhere, for example shoes or socks, we have cited the cost from supermarket Asda, which we found to generally offer the lowest prices.

We have made a number of assumptions about how many items are needed for each child, and where appropriate have allowed for one blazer, jumper, tie and sports shirt, two pairs of trousers, sports socks and PE shorts, five pairs of ordinary socks and six shirts (three packs of two offering the best deal).

We found the biggest costs were for blazers (ranging from £25 to £89), jumpers (ranging from £10 to £27), and rugby shirts for boys (ranging from £15 to £38).

Some schools expect pupils to have a summer uniform and a standard one, plus a range of branded sports wear.

Primary school

Our survey found the average back-to-school cost for a primary school pupil is £156.

This is significantly less than the cost for secondary school pupils, in part because primary schools do not usually require as much clothing to be bought from specific retailers, and in part because primary pupils are not generally required to have as much stationery (about £4 worth compared with up to £30 in secondary school).

Secondary school

When children start secondary school the back-to-school costs for parents rise to an average of £285 per pupil. While this is partly due to the fact that clothes for older children

are more expensive, it is also a result of secondary schools requiring parents to buy more items of clothing from specific retailers.

Another reason why back to school costs are so high for secondary school pupils is that PE kits are often expensive and have to be bought from specific retailers. For example, one comprehensive school in the South West requires parents of boys to buy at least one personalised rugby shirt costing £38. When this price is added to the cost of shorts, shirts, skirts, trousers, socks and trainers, it is not difficult to see why PE kits make up such a large part of back-to-school costs. As well as this, PE kits are often lost or damaged, and so parents frequently have to spend money on replacing them.

The back-to-school costs of both primary and secondary schools vary greatly. The majority of secondary schools expect parents to spend between £200 and £300, yet our report found that parents are expected to pay up to £600 if they have a child at certain state-funded schools.

According to our survey, the average back-to-school costs of having one child at primary school and one at secondary is £441.

In Detention: Real-life examples of back-to-school costs

- One state-funded grammar school in North London expects parents to spend over £590 getting each pupil back to school. A list of compulsory items includes an £89 blazer, a £98 school coat, and a PE kit in which the shirt, jumper, jogging bottoms and shorts must all be personalised with the child's initials
- Although primary schools are usually cheaper than secondary schools, some are still very expensive. For example, the uniform of one South London Primary School will set back parents more than £190 for each child
- The compulsory uniform of this primary school includes a £55 blazer and a "Straw Boater Hat" that must be bought for £22 and worn in the summer
- In July 2013, it was reported that a couple of schools expected pupils to acquire iPads or other computer tablets, costing parents between £200 and £300³
- Parents whose children require uniform in larger sizes face paying a premium at a number of schools where bigger clothes are significantly more expensive. At one comprehensive in Essex, a large pullover costs nearly twice as much (£24) as a small one (£13)
- When a secondary school in East Anglia became an academy and changed its uniform in 2011 parents were offered a £30 voucher. The new uniform cost £280
- Some schools require students to buy their own aprons for Food Technology and Craft lessons
- One school in the south of England changed its uniform twice in three years, prompting protests from parents
- A London academy reportedly introduced a new uniform costing £225 – more than double the £99 cost of the old one. Some 70 families were said to have taken out loans to buy the new uniform.

³ Schools ask parents to stump up £200 for iPads, Observer, 27 July 2013:
www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/jul/28/ipad-tablet-computer-school-parents

Impact on low income families

To understand the full impact of back-to-school costs on low income families it is helpful to look at the context of poverty in Britain.

According to official statistics, more than a quarter of households with children (some 3.5m) in the UK live in relative poverty, defined as those on less than 60% of median income, once tax and housing costs have been paid.⁴

Households fall below the poverty line if they live on less than the following:

- £357 per week (£1,547 a month) for a couple with two children aged 5 and 14
- £264 per week (£1,144 a month) for a single parent with two children aged 5 and 14.⁵

By comparing these thresholds with the back-to-school costs identified in the preceding section, we can see that the £441 average total cost of having one child at primary school and one at secondary represents a significant proportion of the monthly income for millions of people.

In fact, it is equivalent to 39% of the monthly net income, after housing costs, of a single parent on the poverty line – and 29% of a couple's. The further down the poverty scale families are the bigger the proportion of income these back-to-school costs will swallow.

The proportion taken up will be even higher in families with three or more children, or with more than one child at secondary school.

The costs will leave some parents in the unhappy position of having to choose whether to kit out and equip their children for school, or pay the gas bill or rent and have their child make do with old, incorrect or ill-fitting clothes. If parents choose the latter their children may be at risk of being targeted by playground bullies.

The challenge is highlighted by official figures showing that thousands of children are still going without a warm winter coat because their parents cannot afford to buy one for them.⁶

⁴ Households Below Average Income: An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2011/12 June 2013 (United Kingdom), Department for Work and Pensions, pages 113-114: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/206778/full_hbai13.pdf

⁵ Households Below Average Income: An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2011/12 June 2013 (United Kingdom), Department for Work and Pensions, printed page 39: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/206778/full_hbai13.pdf

⁶ Households Below Average Income: An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2011/12 June 2013 (United Kingdom), Department for Work and Pensions, printed page 116: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/206778/full_hbai13.pdf

What the Government says about school uniform

There are no laws dealing specifically with school uniform. The Department for Education (DfE) makes clear that it is up to a school's governing body, or in the case of academies (including free schools), for Academy Trusts, to decide whether there should be a school uniform and what pupils are required to wear. Most schools in England have school uniform or a dress code, and other rules on appearance.

In May 2010 the DfE said: "Schools can help limit the expense of uniforms by choosing a colour scheme rather than a full uniform or by ensuring the uniform chosen is widely available in high street shops rather than a sole supplier."⁷

Non-statutory guidance issued in 2012 states: "It is... for the governing body to decide how the uniform should be sourced. The governing body should be able to demonstrate to parents how best value has been achieved and keep the cost of supplying the uniform under review."⁸

The 2012 guidance states that a school should ensure that its school uniform policy is "fair and reasonable". Specifically, it should "make certain that the uniform chosen is affordable and does not act as a barrier to parents when choosing a school".

The guidance "strongly recommend[s]" that, in setting uniform policies, schools consider "the cost and availability of the proposed uniform, e.g. non-standard sizes" and "the cost of including branded items and items in unusual colours/shades", and "continually review" the cost of these items.

The guidance goes on to say: "School uniform and other items that must be purchased in accordance with school rules can be expensive, and school governing bodies should therefore give high priority to the cost considerations. No school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend a school of their choice, due to the cost of the uniform."

⁷ Is there any financial help available for parents to buy school uniforms? DfE, May 2010: www.education.gov.uk/popularquestions/schools/uniform/a005640/financial-support-for-school-uniforms

⁸ School Uniform: A Guide for Head Teachers, Governing Bodies, Academy Trusts, Free Schools and Local Authorities, DfE, August 2012: <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/school%20uniform%20guidance%202012.pdf>

Uniform prices – the big stitch-up

Whatever Government guidance may say, evidence suggests that schools could be doing more to keep down the costs of uniforms and other back-to-school items.

A report by the Office of Fair Trading (OfT) in August 2012 estimated that parents were being forced to pay £52m more than necessary every year because restrictions on where school uniforms could be bought were harming competition and inflating costs.⁹

The OfT's investigation found 69% of state primary schools and 94% of state secondaries placed restrictions on where uniforms could be bought. Across both primaries and secondaries the figure was 74%.

The report said: "This is higher than we would have expected, given guidance on uniform policy from the Department of Education and... given the benefits associated with competition."

It argued that reducing restrictions and giving parents the ability to shop around – for items such as ties, blazers and sweatshirts, would inject greater competition into the market and "result in savings for parents".

As an example, it noted that the price for a sweatshirt for secondary school boys from a single retailer arrangement was on average £12. An indicative price from a supermarket was £5. For secondary school girls' skirts, the equivalent figures were £15.40 and £5.

The report said: "As a consequence, parents who are not able to shop around for uniform items are paying as much as £5 to £10 too much for many of these items."

The OfT estimated that at a typical price difference of £5 per item, the total detriment to all primary and secondary school children would amount to £52m each year.

The OfT wrote to headteachers encouraging them to review their uniform arrangements to ensure they were not "leading to parents paying high prices for uniform items".¹⁰

The letter urged schools to take steps to end any arrangements with a single retailer or supplier or, at the very least, introduce competition into the process of choosing that retailer or supplier.

⁹ Supply of school uniforms Report of findings by IFF Research, Office of Fair Trading, August 2012: www.of.gov.uk/shared_of/markets-work/OFT1436.pdf

¹⁰ OfT letter to headteachers, OfT, October 2012: www.of.gov.uk/shared_of/markets-work/schools-letter.pdf

New academies – brand new costs

Last summer the Local Government Association raised concerns about the impact of the growing number of schools converting to academies and rebranding with new uniforms.¹¹ Since then, the number of academies has grown by a further 60% – from 1,907 in June 2012 to 3,049 as of July 2013.¹² At the same time, the number of new free schools more than tripled from 24 in 2011 to 79 in 2012. A further 109 are aiming to open this September with another 102 approved for 2014.¹³

There is a clear risk that this significant increase in new schools will lead to an increase in the number of branded, compulsory school items, placing further pressure on the finances of families expected to equip children for the start of the school year.

Many schools use the transition to academy status as an opportunity for rebranding, which often includes changing the uniform. Although some headteachers will argue that rebranding a school can have a positive effect, it can also result in parents having to pay a significant penalty in back-to-school costs.

For example, the rebranding of one academy in Wiltshire cost parents £116 in new compulsory items including a blazer, sweatshirt, tie, rugby shirt, polo shirt, PE fleece, kit bag, PE shorts and book bag. The uniform list of another new academy, in London, totalled £216 and included a blazer, a jumper, a tie, a kilt, a bag, a tracksuit top, jogging bottoms, a polo shirt and a pair of shorts. This excluded normal items of clothing such as shirts, trousers and shoes which had to be purchased on top of this.

Another school in London, which was granted academy status, reportedly introduced a new compulsory uniform costing £225 when it opened its new building, prompting more than 70 families to take out loans. By contrast, the previous school uniform was said to have cost £99. This highlights the extent to which the rebranding of a school can have an impact on parents. Expensive, new uniforms often mean extra costs that parents can ill afford, especially if they have to buy them just a year or two after their child has joined the school.

¹¹ Schools have 'moral responsibility' to keep uniform costs down, Local Government Association, August 2012: www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10171/3695294/

¹² Open academies and academy projects in development, DfE: www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/b00208569/open-academies

¹³ More than 100 free schools applications approved, DfE press release, 22 May 2013: www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-100-free-schools-applications-approved

Local authority grants – a patchy postcode lottery

Some local authorities in England provide grants to help parents buy school uniforms in cases of financial hardship. Authorities that offer such grants set their own eligibility criteria. A Family Action mini-survey of ten local authority websites found that where such grants existed they averaged about £60 per pupil, but several authorities appeared to offer nothing at all.

For example, while a family living in one London Borough with an income below £16,190 would be eligible to receive £100 of school uniform vouchers, a family living in a county in the Midlands would not generally be entitled to support because the council no longer offers uniform grants. Many families therefore face large bills for uniform costs without the prospect of any help from their local authority.

A Citizens Advice survey of local authority grant schemes recorded a recurrent drop in both the availability and value of grant schemes.¹⁴ In 2007, 57% of local authorities did not offer any uniform grant, up from 42% in 2004 and 30% in 2001.

Whether help is available to meet back-to-school costs is not only dependent on where a family lives but also on what type of school their child attends, as some councils exclude academy pupils from their eligibility list.

The majority of councils that do offer financial help target their support at families in receipt of benefits. This means that low income working families who struggle with back-to-school costs are likely to be denied support.

Where support does exist it may prove to be inadequate. One state school in London has a uniform cost totalling £564. Families claiming benefits are eligible for £60 of vouchers from their local authority, leaving parents facing a £504 bill for their child's uniform. Further to this, the grants are offered to families only when their child starts secondary school; as the child inevitably grows out of their uniform, no additional assistance is available, unlike in some areas of the UK, such as Manchester, where grants are offered in both Year 7 and Year 10.

The distribution of assistance can evidently be unequal and unfair, leaving many families in a position where they have little or no help with buying uniform or meeting other costs for their children.

¹⁴ Adding up – The range and impact of school costs on families, Citizens Advice, September 2007: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/policy/policy_publications/adding_up.htm

Other school costs – bring your own books

School costs are not confined to school uniforms, PE kits and bags. There are a range of additional costs which can have a sizeable impact on household budgets and the amount parents have to pay to help ensure their children are equipped to succeed at school.

Computers are increasingly deemed essential for success with homework and out of school projects and there is a general expectation that children, particularly at secondary school, will have one at home or at least have access to one.

As mentioned above, it was recently reported that a couple of schools expected pupils to acquire iPads or other computer tablets, costing parents up to £300.¹⁵

Many schools require parents to purchase textbooks and workbooks for their children's coursework, and revision guides for their exams.

And many children who have to travel to get to school are expected to either contribute to, or pay for, their transport costs.

Additional costs that may occur during the school year include material and equipment for sports and other extra-curricular activities, the cost of participation in school trips and outings, and art and craft materials.

In this report these additional items were not been included in our survey of back-to-school costs at 13 schools – but for many they are an additional and unwelcome burden.

¹⁵ Schools ask parents to stump up £200 for iPads, Observer, 27 July 2013:
www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/jul/28/ipad-tablet-computer-school-parents

Case studies – struggling parents speak out

The following quotations were taken from a series of interviews with a number of Family Action service users across England in July and August 2013. All names have been changed.

Charlotte

Mother-of-three Charlotte, 32, from Tooting in London, has two children at secondary school and one at primary.

She tells Family Action: "There's a list of compulsory stuff I have to get for my older children and most have to be bought directly from the school. The school is changing the uniform this September and they now have blazers, which are around £35. The PE kit can only be bought from the school too – that's £50 for t-shirt, shorts and top with the school logo on them. I'm looking at a bill of at least £100 each for compulsory school uniform items.

"Then you have the other stuff the children want – new bags and new shoes. The latest fashion is Kickers [brand of] shoes, which go for £50 a pair, then they need a proper main brand of trainers for £40 or £50. Then there are the bags, pens, pencils and all the equipment. By the end you're looking at £450 each for the older ones before I've even looked at the youngest at primary school. She's not so expensive, I can kit her out at Asda and Tesco for £70 because you are allowed to get a plain jumper and trousers and tights.

"My oldest daughter is starting to do her GCSEs and will need to buy revision books – at least 12 books for £8 to £10 each – that's £120 I am going to have to spend because I want her to do the best she can."

Charlotte says she has to buy her older daughter a new uniform every year and her older son twice a year, because they grow out of their old ones and they become tatty.

She says: "By the time I've paid the bills and bought food I'm not able to buy the uniform so I have to spread the cost across the whole six week period. I can't plan to do any activities for the children and help keep them busy during the holiday because I have to plan for their back to school uniform. It's so stressful trying to find enough money. From the moment they break up when it gets to July I think you now have to think about money for the school uniform. In the summer holidays we can't afford to go anywhere and I have to budget with shopping to afford bits of uniform. They miss out in a lot of ways."

She adds: "I understand the necessity to have school uniforms and think they are a good idea in general but for parents who are struggling in many ways it's stressful – for those who work as well as people who don't. The last thing you want is for the kids to go to school without the right things and they end up getting picked on because of that.

"I remember when I was a child you could get a school uniform grant from the school or the council to help mums with more than one child on a budget. The council says nothing like that is available any more.

"Schools should sell uniforms for the same price that other shops are doing them for so the price is competitive. Then you would be able to manage.

"Even if secondary schools were able to give parents one set of everything that is compulsory that would be helpful."

Isma

Mum of two Isma, aged 38, from Bradford, has a 14-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl. She says buying the cheapest of any item can be a false economy because they will not always last long.

She says: "If I buy cheap shoes I need to buy them again soon afterwards. Last time I bought cheaper shoes my son said they made his legs hurt. But if I buy Clarks they are expensive and I can't afford them."

Often one pair is not enough for growing adolescents – last year, because her son was growing so fast, she had to buy him two pairs of shoes.

But that's just the start, she says: "Then you have to buy the stationery, school bag, clothes, and a jacket."

Isma tells of her frustration of the "pressure" children faced from their classmates when they wore different clothes to their peers.

She says: "I bought a jacket that [my son] wanted for £30 and then he said he wouldn't wear it because he wanted the Nike jacket his friends had, for £70. They are under pressure when they wear different clothes."

Bradford Council provides vouchers worth £26 for each child in low income families, which Isma considers welcome but inadequate.

She says: "The council gives me a £26 voucher for each child for Natasha [uniform shop] but the blazer alone costs £35, the PE shirt £7-9 and the school tie £6 or £7. Last time I ended up spending £150 on top of the voucher."

Isma, whose daughter is due to start secondary school in September 2013, says affording the annual back-to-school costs is a struggle.

She says: "I find it difficult every year and I have to choose carefully [what I spend my money on]. Sometimes it's very hard for kids starting school because they need new stationery, bags, clothes, PE kit, trainers – they always want certain trainers. Last year I bought three pairs of football trainers at £50 because the first two broke."

Cutting down on shopping is one way in which Isma tries to save enough money to send her children to school in the correct uniform.

She says: "Because the kids start school in September I start saving in the summer, and I buy less shopping, to save around £10 per week, so they can have what they want."

"I don't want my kids to feel we don't have things. I feel sorry for my daughter when she says 'don't worry about [buying an item]'. I try my best. I want to do everything for them. I don't want my kids to feel they can't afford a jacket or some trainers."

Rachel

Rachel, from Manchester, has an 11-year-old daughter who starts secondary school in September 2013.

The mum-of-three, who receives income support and carer's allowance, says: "It's been really hard and this year it's going to be horrible because she has to have everything the school says."

That includes black trousers, a blazer ("about £28"), a tie, white shirts, a school jumper, black shoes and socks, black sports kit including tracksuit bottoms and a rugby top, a black swimming kit and "football boots that won't fit her anymore after a short time".

Rachel says: "It's all got the school's name on it." Then she needs a folder, paper, pens, a pencil, ruler, rubber, highlighter, divider, calculator, a school bag and a waterproof jacket – "It will come to £250 for one year, and it might be more."

Rachel has tried to spread the cost by steadily buying the items her daughter needs over the last nine months.

She says: "I have been buying a few things over the last school year – I started after last Christmas with the sales. I'll be leaving the shoes 'til the last minute because I want them to be able to fit her.

"The school will have a uniform sale over the summer but most of the items you have to buy from shops the school allows. It's unfair because those shops charge extra money. It would be better if I could buy more from supermarkets. Single parents should be able to get their uniform anywhere where we can get it to fit."

Rachel thinks schools are too obsessed with getting their logo on everything. She says: "There are too many items where they want the badge on. If they are wearing a waterproof and a winter blazer you can't even see the name of the school. They shouldn't need the name on the sports kit. They know what school they are in. Sports Direct have good sales and sell shorts for £2.50 but school shops sell them for £5. She might have a growth spurt through the year and then you've got to buy even more."

Rachel says Manchester City Council is providing her with £80 towards the costs, because her daughter will be in year 7, and will provide a further £50 when she is in year 11, but no more than that. While the support is welcome, Rachel is matter-of-fact about what she will still have to do to afford all of these items for her daughter.

She says: "I might end up eating beans and toast for two weeks but it doesn't matter what happens to me. I will go without so my daughter can have her uniform. I'm going to have to borrow money off of people and might have to get a loan because we are really poor. I don't want her to look poor. I want her to have the uniform that everybody else has got. I don't want her to look out of place."

While Rachel prefers schools to have a uniform, because it is "equalising" for pupils of different incomes, she says there will still be inequalities. "There is a lot of pressure on children about phones. My daughter has a cheap phone and others have Blackberries and iPhones. I don't want to have her feel that about the rest of the uniform."

Monica

Monica, 47, from Rochdale, who has two daughters aged 14 and 16, says: "It's an absolute nightmare. They have to get black trousers for £30 a pair, big blazers for £45 to £50 – my daughter had three or four of those across the time she was at school. The PE kit is horrendous; my daughter has lost two sets this year which has had to be replaced. The rugby shirts cost £17 each, the PE top is £8. You have to buy them from one of three school shops, which is more expensive.

"I try to buy the items across a six to eight week period and I have started buying the pens and pencils. If it was just plain black t-shirts or rugby shirts it might be ok, but because they have the school logos on them they are more expensive."

Vicky

Mum of two Vicky, 38, from Rochdale, says: "The blazer is £30 to £40 and they've got to be the certain ones, the skirts have to be a certain length and the football shirts a certain colour. There are jumpers, shorts, tops, trousers, certain shirts, all with logos.

"I don't see why the PE stuff they wear in the field next to the school needs to be branded in the first place. I don't get it. Then you've got the cost of the ingredients for cooking classes and transport to get to school."

Vicky, who has a 12-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son, says her local council told her they had stopped providing grants to help low-income parents meet the cost.

She says: "They don't think about people who suffer for it. I have been using my disability benefits to pay for it because otherwise I wouldn't be able to afford it. I have been trying to buy things bit by bit. My mum has helped me a bit. It's one of the biggest costs of the year. They should drop the prices or get help for those who struggle."

Yasmin

Mum of three Yasmin, 44, from Rochdale, says: "It can get quite out of control, especially if you have two to three children going to these schools. I have had to get second hand from friends whose children have left, and other clothes from the school. I have been trying to find ways and means of doing it as cheaply as possible. Sometimes they can have each other's clothing. With the blazer I can buy a plain one and the badge separately and sew it on. The jacket from Asda can be £10-£11 and the logo £5, so that's £20 less than getting it from the school shop."

Yasmin, who has two boys aged 19 and 11 and a 17-year-old daughter, says schools are overly worried about branding, which makes everything more expensive.

She says: "The rugby shirts you have to get with a logo for £18-£20. It's unfair that you have to have logos on the PE items. I think they are too fixated on the logos. You used to be able to get away with having a tie and that was it. Now, the jumpers, blazers and PE kit all have logos on and I find that difficult to afford."

Recommendations for a fairer deal

For schools:

- Stop the sale of branded school items from special shops, with the exception of school ties
- Require parents to buy plain, standard clothing from any retailer of their choice
- Scrap branded PE kit and allow children to wear plain tops and shorts, which can be bought from supermarkets
- Introduce a badge into the school uniform that is sold separately, at cost price, and sewn or added onto standard clothing later
- Keep the number of compulsory items required, for example, for different gym kits or different uniforms for winter and summer, to a minimum
- Make the school uniform lists available to parents as early as possible, so they can begin planning, saving and purchasing the required items earlier
- Provide a reasonable transition period for any change in uniform as per DfE guidance¹⁶
- Any schools converting to academies should think carefully about the need for any uniform change and consider whether a new sew-on badge would be sufficient
- Set up a school uniform and equipment bank so that poorer parents can purchase items at a reduced rate or be given them for free.

For local authorities:

- Consider starting a grants scheme for families on low incomes – those in work as well as those in receipt of out-of-work benefits – to help them meet back-to-school costs
- Develop authority-wide policies to limit back-to-school costs in local authority-controlled schools.

For Government:

- Include within devolved budgets for schools a ring-fenced amount for a uniform grant scheme for the poorest pupils
- Review existing guidance on school uniforms to place additional pressure on schools to keep costs fair and affordable.

¹⁶ 'What Should a School Do?'- DfE guidance
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolethos/b0014144/schooluniform/what-should-a-school-do>

Appendix

Overview of back-to-school survey

For these calculations, back-to-school costs consist of:

- School uniform (shoes, socks, trousers, skirt, shirt, polo shirt, tie, jumper, blazer)
- PE kit (trainers, socks, shorts, top, and gym bag)
- Coat and school bag
- Stationery for primary school pupils (pencil case, pen set, pencils), or:
- Stationery for secondary school pupils (pencil case, pen set, scientific calculator, USB, pencils, eraser, sharpener, maths set, English dictionary, French/German dictionary, glue stick, highlighter).

Average back-to-school cost across ten secondary schools = **£284.74**

Average back-to-school cost across three primary schools = **£155.81**

| School | County | Pupils ¹⁷ | Average cost (Boys) | Average cost (Girls) | Average overall cost |
|-----------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Comprehensive A | Hampshire | 1,100 | £257.05 | £266.54 | £261.80 |
| Comprehensive B | Essex | 400 | £256.03 | £313.53 | £284.78 |
| Comprehensive C | Yorkshire | 500 | £189.45 | £171.48 | £180.47 |
| Comprehensive D | London | 700 | £237.00 | £252.10 | £244.55 |
| Comprehensive E | Wiltshire | 1800 | £286.60 | £249.49 | £268.05 |
| Academy A | Notts | 1600 | £237.61 | £220.11 | £230.36 |
| Academy B | Manchester | 1000 | £302.10 | £292.60 | £297.35 |
| Academy C | Norfolk | 500 | £271.30 | £302.30 | £286.80 |
| Grammar A | London | 700 | N/A | £200.05 | £200.05 |
| Grammar B | London | 800 | N/A | £593.21 | £593.21 |
| Primary A | Newcastle | 500 | £157.97 | £169.97 | £163.97 |
| Primary B | London | 400 | £100.48 | £107.48 | £103.98 |
| Primary C | London | 200 | £203.97 | £194.97 | £199.47 |

Breakdown of stationery costs

The cost of stationery items below are taken from Ryman, which generally offered the lowest prices as of July 2013.¹⁸

Cost of stationery required at secondary school:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Pencil case | £0.89 |
| Pen set | £1.29 |
| Scientific calculator | £2.99 |
| Pencils/ eraser/ sharpener | £1.80 |
| Glue stick | £0.49 |

¹⁷ Numbers of pupils taken from Edubase Public Portal:

www.education.gov.uk/edubase/home.xhtml;jsessionid=4EE5F2E1A200BE67128D6431ED1D36E0

¹⁸ Cost of stationery calculated using Ryman website: www.ryman.co.uk.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Highlighters | £2.49 |
| Memory stick | £7.99 |
| English dictionary | £4.99 |
| French/Spanish dictionary | £4.99 |
| Maths set | £1.69 |

Total: **£29.61**

Cost of required stationery at Primary School:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Pencil case | £0.89 |
| Pen set | £1.29 |
| Pencils/ eraser/ sharpener | £1.80 |

Total: **£3.98**

School-by-school breakdown

For each school, items highlighted in orange are required to be bought from a specific retailer. The prices of other items are from Asda as of July 2013, the cheapest from a range of retailers; the stationery is from Ryman. Where the cost of uniform varies according to size, the median price has been used.

| Comprehensive A: | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Boys: | Girls: | Average: | | | |
| £257.05 | £266.54 | £261.80 | | | |
| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girls Total: |
| Blazer | 1 | £34.99 | £34.99 | £34.99 | £34.99 |
| Jumper | 1 | £18.49 | £18.49 | £16.99 | £16.99 |
| Trousers | 2 | £14.00 | £28.00 | £14.00 | £28.00 |
| Shirts (Pack of 2) | 3 | £10.00 | £30.00 | £11.00 | £33.00 |
| Clip on tie | 1 | £5.99 | £5.99 | £5.99 | £5.99 |
| Socks (Pack of 5) | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Skirt | 2 | | | £14.99 | £29.98 |
| Shoes | 1 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £13.00 | £13.00 |
| Sports shirt | 1 | £12.99 | £12.99 | £12.99 | £12.99 |
| Sports socks | 2 | £4.00 | £8.00 | £5.00 | £10.00 |
| PE shorts | 2 | £8.00 | £16.00 | £8.00 | £16.00 |
| Rugby shirt | 1 | £18.99 | £18.99 | | |
| Black football socks | 1 | £5.00 | £5.00 | £5.00 | £5.00 |
| Trainers | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £257.05 | | £266.54 |

Comprehensive B:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Boys: £256.03 | Girls: £313.53 | Average: £284.78 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girls Total: |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Tie | 1 | £4.95 | £4.95 | £4.95 | £4.95 |
| Blazer | 1 | £33.00 | £33.00 | £33.00 | £33.00 |
| Jumper | 1 | £16.50 | £16.50 | £16.50 | £16.50 |
| Shirts (Pack of 2) | 3 | £12.50 | £37.50 | £12.50 | £37.50 |
| Trousers | 2 | £10.99 | £21.98 | £19.99 | £39.98 |
| Skirts | 2 | | | £17.00 | £34.00 |
| Shoes | 1 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £13.00 | £13.00 |
| Rugby Top | 1 | £16.50 | £16.50 | | |
| Sports Polo | 1 | £12.50 | £12.50 | £12.50 | £12.50 |
| PE shorts | 2 | £7.00 | £14.00 | £7.00 | £14.00 |
| PE skirt | 2 | | | £13.50 | £27.00 |
| PE socks | 2 | £6.00 | £12.00 | £6.00 | £12.00 |
| PE jogging bottoms (optional) | 1 | £14.50 | £14.50 | £14.50 | £14.50 |
| Trainers | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £256.03 | | £313.53 |

Comprehensive C:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Boys: £189.45 | Girls: £171.48 | Average: £180.47 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girls Total: |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Jumper | 2 | £10.00 | £20.00 | £10.00 | £20.00 |
| Shirts | 5 | £4 | £19.95 | £3.99 | £19.95 |
| Clip on tie | 1 | £3.99 | £3.99 | £3.99 | £3.99 |
| Trousers | 2 | £10.99 | £21.98 | £12.00 | £24.00 |
| Skirts | 2 | £0 | £0.00 | Price TBC | |
| Shoes | 1 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £13.00 | £13.00 |
| Rugby Top | 1 | £14.99 | £14.99 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Sports Polo | 1 | £6.99 | £6.99 | £6.99 | £6.99 |
| PE shorts | 2 | £3.99 | £7.98 | £3.99 | £7.98 |
| Waterproof PE Top | 1 | £14.99 | £14.99 | £14.99 | £14.99 |
| PE socks | 2 | £2.99 | £5.98 | £2.99 | £5.98 |
| Trainers | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £189.45 | | £171.48 |

Comprehensive D:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Boys: £237.00 | Girls: £252.10 | Average: £244.55 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girls Total: |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Shirts (Pack of 2) | 3 | £13.50 | £40.50 | £13.50 | £40.50 |
| Jumper | 1 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £16.00 |
| Trousers | 2 | £13.95 | £27.90 | £12.00 | £24.00 |
| Skirts | 2 | | | £12.00 | £24.00 |
| Shoes | 1 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £13.00 | £13.00 |
| Sweatshirt | 1 | £20.00 | £20.00 | £20.00 | £20.00 |
| PE jogging bottoms (optional) | 1 | £15.00 | £15.00 | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| Sports Polo | 1 | £15.00 | £15.00 | £15.00 | £15.00 |
| PE shorts | 2 | £10.00 | £20.00 | £10.00 | £20.00 |
| PE socks | 2 | £5.00 | £10.00 | £5.00 | £10.00 |
| Trainers | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £237.00 | | £252.10 |

Comprehensive E:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Boys: £286.60 | Girls: £249.49 | Average: £268.05 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girl Total: |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Tie | 1 | £4.50 | £4.50 | £4.50 | £4.50 |
| Shirts (Pack of 2) | 3 | £17 | £51.00 | £17 | £51.00 |
| Sweatshirt | 1 | £15.50 | £15.50 | £15.50 | £15.50 |
| Trousers | 2 | £21.00 | £42.00 | | £0.00 |
| Skirt | 2 | | £0.00 | £5.50 | £11.00 |
| Shoes | 1 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £13.00 | £13.00 |
| Rugby Top (Personalised) | 1 | £38.00 | £38.00 | | £0.00 |
| PE Shorts | 2 | £8.00 | £16.00 | | £0.00 |
| Sports Skirt | 2 | | £0.00 | £19.00 | £38.00 |
| Rugby socks | 1 | £7.00 | £7.00 | | £0.00 |
| Sports Polo | 2 | £10.00 | £20.00 | £10.00 | £20.00 |
| PE socks | 2 | £5.50 | £11.00 | £7.00 | £14.00 |
| Mouthguard | 1 | £3 | £3.00 | £3 | £3.00 |
| Sports Fleece | 1 | | £0.00 | £18.50 | £18.50 |
| Trainers | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Craft Apron | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £286.60 | | £249.10 |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Academy A: | | |
| Boys: | Girls: | Average: |
| £237.61 | £220.11 | £230.36 |

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girl Total: |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Blazer | 1 | £25.50 | £25.50 | £25.50 | £25.50 |
| Jumper | 1 | £18.50 | £18.50 | £18.50 | £18.50 |
| School tie | 1 | £5.00 | £5.00 | £5.00 | £5.00 |
| Skirt | 2 | | | £15.00 | £30.00 |
| Trousers | 2 | £15.00 | £30.00 | £15.00 | £0.00 |
| Shirts (Pack of 2) | 3 | £5.50 | £16.50 | £5.50 | £16.50 |
| Tights (Black, pack of 3) | 2 | | | £3.00 | £6.00 |
| Socks (Pack of 7) | 1 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 |
| Shoes | 1 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £10.00 | £10.00 |
| PE Shirt | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE Shorts | 2 | £5.50 | £11.00 | £5.50 | £11.00 |
| Rugby Shirt | 1 | £15.50 | £15.50 | | |
| Training trousers | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| PE Sweatshirt | 1 | £14.50 | £14.50 | £14.50 | £14.50 |
| PE Socks | 2 | £4.50 | £9.00 | £4.50 | £9.00 |
| Trainers | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Coat/ Jacket | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £237.61 | | £220.11 |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Academy B: | | |
| Boys: | Girls: | Average: |
| £302.10 | £292.60 | £297.35 |

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girl Total: |
|---------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Blazer | 1 | £35.00 | £35.00 | £35.00 | £35.00 |
| Jumper | 1 | £18.00 | £18.00 | £16.00 | £16.00 |
| Tie | 1 | £7.00 | £7.00 | | £0.00 |
| Shirts | 3 | £10.00 | £30.00 | £9.00 | £27.00 |
| Skirts | 2 | | £0.00 | £23.00 | £46.00 |
| Tights | 2 | | £0.00 | £7.00 | £14.00 |
| Trousers | 2 | £14.00 | £28.00 | £16.00 | £32.00 |
| Shoes | 1 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £13.00 | £13.00 |
| Rugby Shirt | 1 | £26.00 | £26.00 | | £0.00 |
| Sports socks | 1 | £7.00 | £7.00 | £7.00 | £7.00 |
| PE shirt | 2 | £11.00 | £22.00 | £11.00 | £22.00 |
| PE sweatshirt | 1 | £14.00 | £14.00 | £14.00 | £14.00 |
| PE Shorts | 2 | £10.00 | £20.00 | £6.00 | £12.00 |
| Trainers | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Rugby boots | 1 | £21.00 | £21.00 | | £0.00 |
| Mouth guard | 1 | £1.50 | £1.50 | | £0.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £302.10 | | £292.60 |

Academy C:

Boys: £271.30
Girls: £302.30
Average: **£286.80**

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girls Total: |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Blazer | 1 | £27.50 | £27.50 | £27.50 | £27.50 |
| Clip on tie | 1 | £3.50 | £3.50 | | £0.00 |
| Jumper | 1 | £14.75 | £14.75 | £14.75 | £14.75 |
| Shirts (Pack of 2) | 3 | £17.75 | £53.25 | £18.25 | £54.75 |
| Trousers | 2 | £18.25 | £36.50 | £19.50 | £39.00 |
| Skirts | 2 | | £0.00 | £17.75 | £35.50 |
| Shoes | 1 | £16.00 | £16.00 | £13.00 | £13.00 |
| PE shirt | 1 | £7.25 | £7.25 | £7.25 | £7.25 |
| PE shorts | 2 | £7.25 | £14.50 | £7.25 | £14.50 |
| PE socks | 2 | £4.50 | £9.00 | £4.50 | £9.00 |
| PE jumper (optional) | 1 | £18.50 | £18.50 | £18.50 | £18.50 |
| PE jogging bottoms (optional) | 1 | £13.95 | £13.95 | £13.95 | £13.95 |
| Trainers | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £271.30 | | £302.30 |

Grammar A (single sex):

Total:
£200.05

| Item: | Quantity: | Price: | Total: |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|
| Jumper | 2 | £24.99 | £49.98 |
| Skirt | 1 | £5.50 | £5.50 |
| Trousers | 1 | £5.00 | £5.00 |
| Shirts (Light Blue, Pack of 2) | 3 | £5.50 | £16.50 |
| Socks (Pack of 7) | 1 | £2.50 | £2.50 |
| Tights (Black, pack of 3) | 2 | £3.00 | £6.00 |
| Shoes | 1 | £10.00 | £10.00 |
| PE Sweatshirt | 1 | £9.99 | £9.99 |
| PE Shirt | 1 | £6.99 | £6.99 |
| PE Skirt | 1 | £16.99 | £16.99 |
| PE jogging bottoms (Navy) | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Trainers | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| Hockey socks | 2 | £5.00 | £10.00 |
| Coat/ Jacket | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £200.05 |

Grammar B (single sex):**Total:****£593.21**

| Item: | Quantity: | Price: | Total: |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|
| Blazer | 1 | £89.00 | £89.00 |
| Jumper | 2 | £26.95 | £53.90 |
| Long sleeved blouse | 5 | £16.95 | £84.75 |
| Skirts | 2 | £39.95 | £79.90 |
| Tights (Pack of 2) | 3 | £3.00 | £9.00 |
| Shoes | 1 | £13.00 | £13.00 |
| Personalised PE jumper | 1 | £24.50 | £24.50 |
| Personalised PE t-shirt | 1 | £17.00 | £17.00 |
| Personalised PE shorts | 1 | £8.25 | £8.25 |
| PE Skirt | 1 | £13.50 | £13.50 |
| Personalised PE jogging bottoms | 1 | £22.00 | £22.00 |
| Football socks | 2 | £6.95 | £13.90 |
| PE Bag | 1 | £5.95 | £5.95 |
| Cycle shorts | 1 | £12.95 | £12.95 |
| Trainers | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| School bag | 2 | £6.00 | £12.00 |
| School coat | 1 | £98.00 | £98.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £29.61 | £29.61 |
| Total: | | | £593.21 |

Primary A:**Boys:**

£157.97

Girls:

£169.97

Average:**£163.97**

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girls Total: |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Cardigan | 2 | | £0.00 | £15.00 | £30.00 |
| Jumper | 2 | £12.00 | £24.00 | £12.00 | |
| Jacket with school logo | 1 | £22.00 | £22.00 | £22.00 | £22.00 |
| Trousers | 2 | £4.00 | £8.00 | | £0.00 |
| Polo shirt with logo | 5 | £9.00 | £45.00 | £9.00 | £45.00 |
| Grey skirt | 2 | | £0.00 | £4.00 | £8.00 |
| Socks (Pack of 7) | 1 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 |
| Summer dresses | 2 | | £0.00 | £4.00 | £8.00 |
| Shoes | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £8.00 |
| PE t-shirt | 1 | £7.00 | £7.00 | £7.00 | £7.00 |
| PE shorts | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| White sports socks (Pack of 2) | 1 | £7.00 | £7.00 | £4.00 | £4.00 |
| Plimsolls | 1 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 |
| Trainers | 1 | £5.00 | £5.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £10.00 | £10.00 | £10.00 | £10.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £3.98 | £3.98 | £3.98 | £3.98 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Total: | | | £157.97 | | £169.97 |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Primary B: | | |
| Boys: | Girls: | Average: |
| £100.48 | £107.48 | £103.98 |

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girls Total: |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Jumpers | 2 | £7.00 | £14.00 | £7.00 | £14.00 |
| Fleece Jacket | 1 | £15 | £15.00 | £15 | £15.00 |
| Knitted Hats | 1 | £3.50 | £3.50 | £3.50 | £3.50 |
| Trousers | 2 | £3.50 | £7.00 | £3.00 | £6.00 |
| Shoes | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £8.00 |
| Skirt | 2 | | £0.00 | £3.50 | £7.00 |
| Socks (7 pack) | 1 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 |
| Trainers | 1 | £5.00 | £5.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Plimsolls | 1 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 |
| Jogging bottoms | 1 | £4.00 | £4.00 | £4.00 | £4.00 |
| Polo Shirt | 2 | £6.00 | £12.00 | £6.00 | £12.00 |
| PE Shirt | 1 | £3.50 | £3.50 | £3.50 | £3.50 |
| PE Shorts | 1 | £3.50 | £3.50 | £3.50 | £3.50 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £10.00 | £10.00 | £10.00 | £10.00 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £3.98 | £3.98 | £3.98 | £3.98 |
| Total: | | | £100.48 | | £107.48 |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Primary C: | | |
| Boys: | Girls: | Average: |
| £203.97 | £194.97 | £199.47 |

| Item: | Quantity: | Boys: | Boys Total: | Girls: | Girls Total: |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Tunic | 1 | | | £26.00 | £26.00 |
| Blazer badge | 1 | £4.50 | £4.50 | £4.50 | £4.50 |
| Tie | 1 | £4.00 | £4.00 | £4.00 | £4.00 |
| Blazer | 1 | £55.00 | £55.00 | £55.00 | £55.00 |
| Trousers (Grey) | 2 | £4.00 | £8.00 | | |
| White shirts (Pack of 2) | 3 | £4.50 | £13.50 | | |
| Light blue shirts (Pack of 2) | 2 | | | £4.50 | £9.00 |
| Gingham blue summer dress | 2 | | | £4.00 | £8.00 |
| Summer boater hat | 1 | | | £22.00 | £22.00 |
| Summer polo shirt | 5 | £9.00 | £45.00 | | |
| Summer shorts (Pack of 2) | 1 | £5.50 | £5.50 | | |
| Shoes | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £8.00 |
| Socks (7 pack) | 1 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 | £2.50 |
| PE jumper | 1 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 | £12.00 |
| PE polo shirt | 1 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £8.00 | £8.00 |
| Black PE shorts (Pack of 2) | 1 | £5.00 | £5.00 | £5.00 | £5.00 |
| White sports socks (Pack of 2) | 1 | £7.00 | £7.00 | £4.00 | £4.00 |
| Trainers | 1 | £5.00 | £5.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| PE bag | 1 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 | £0.99 |
| Coat/Jacket | 1 | £10.00 | £10.00 | £10.00 | £10.00 |
| School bag | 1 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 | £6.00 |
| Stationery | 1 | £3.98 | £3.98 | £3.98 | £3.98 |
| Total: | | | £203.97 | | £194.97 |