

SCHOOL UNIFORM REVIEW



**PARENT AND CARER
SURVEY
SUMMARY REPORT
MAY 2022**

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

SURVEY RESPONSES

The survey was conducted on Survey Monkey and a link distributed via Signmee to all families at BHNPS (685 recipients). There was a 50% response rate with the total number of survey responses being 345. 211 of these responses were completed on the first day the survey was open.

The survey was open for almost one month, from 26/02/22 to 24/03/22.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 58% of survey respondents have one child at BHNPS, 39% have two children at BHNPS and 3% have three children.
- Survey respondents were more likely to have daughters, with 63% having at least 2 girls at the school.
- Parents of Year 2 and 3 were the highest represented respondents (46%) and Year 6 was the lowest (12%).

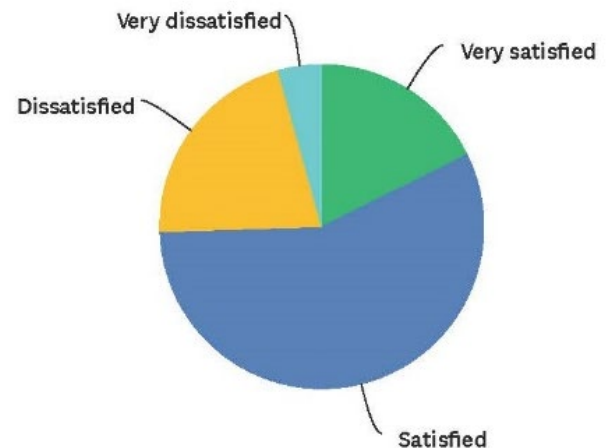


OVERALL SATISFACTON

74.5% of survey respondents say that they are either Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the current school uniform at BHNPS.

However, despite this high level of satisfaction, **68.7% have indicated that they would like changes made.**

We will expand on these findings in the rest of the report.



FINDINGS

LIKES

The 4 highest rated answers for what parents or carers **like** about the current school uniform were the Style/Appearance, the Quality, the Comfort and the Colours.

There were **13 comments** which centered around liking the new elastic waist on the small size culottes, green and white being a nice colour combination, the uniform looking smart and it drying quickly when washed.

DISLIKES

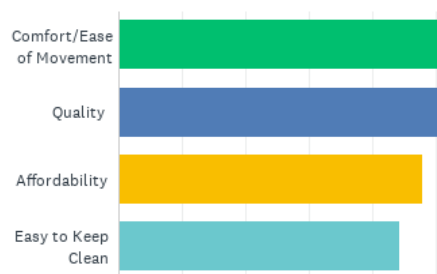
The 4 highest rated answers for what parents and carers **disliked** about the current school uniform were the Colours (white shirts), Other, Comfort and Affordability.

There were **105 comments** which can be grouped into these categories:

- White shirts being impractical and difficult to keep clean (46)
- Uniforms being difficult to put on – esp. girls culottes & button up shirts (20)
- Girls winter uniform is too cumbersome and uncomfortable (7)
- Suggestion of smart polo shirt (7)
- Uniform unaffordability due to so many items (6)
- Quality of fabric – dislike of polyester & suggestions for cotton (6)
- Issues with sizing (5)
- Lack of warmth in jumpers and boys winter pants (4)
- Uniforms restrict movement and hinder physical activity (4)
- Suggestion of uniforms that don't need ironing (4)
- Boys' sports shorts look like skirt and girls sports skirt is too short (4)
- Dissatisfaction with quality of uniform (3)

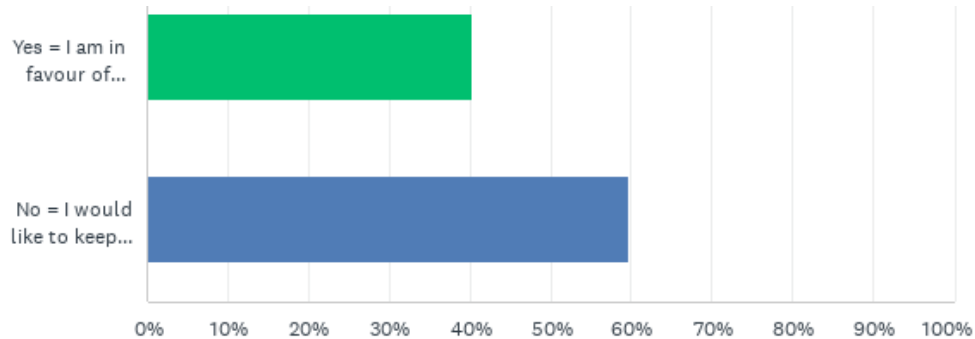
MAKING A CHANGE - KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The 4 highest rated considerations by parents and carers for **wanting** a change to the current school uniform were **Comfort/Ease of Movement**, **Quality**, **Affordability** and **Easy to Keep Clean**.



SPORTS UNIFORM

When asked if they would be in favour of students wearing a sports uniform as their formal school uniform each day, 60% of respondents answered **No**.

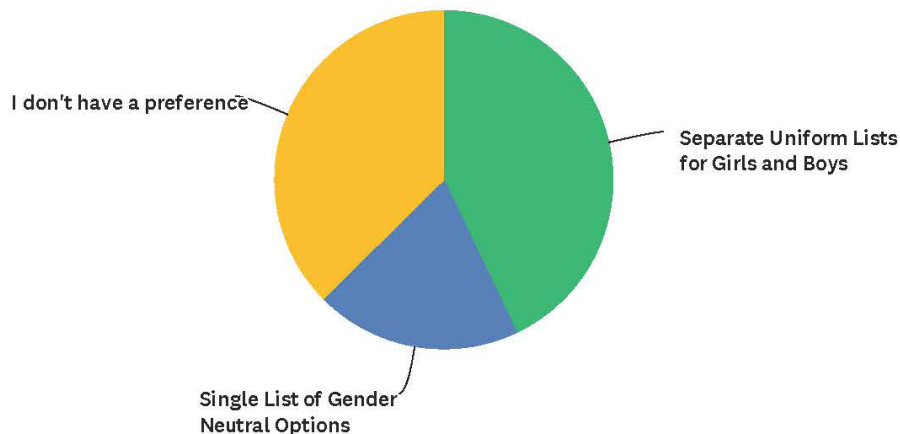


There were **64 comments** on this question, which can be grouped into these categories:

- Importance of having a formal option & community perception (23)
- Sports uniform promotes physical activity and gives comfort (15)
- Dislike of white shirts (8)
- Preference for maintaining a mix of sports and formal uniforms (5)
- Uniform unaffordability due to so many items (4)
- Importance of giving students choice (3)
- Suggestion of smart polo shirt (3)
- Suggestion of a dress for girls (1)

UNIFORM LISTS

43% of survey respondents prefer separate uniform lists for girls and boys, closely followed by 37% who don't have a preference. 20% would prefer a single list of gender neutral options.



There were **19 comments** on uniform lists, which can be grouped into these categories:

- It is important to give students choice in what they wear (10)
- Both gender specific and gender-neutral lists are desirable (5)
- The current uniform is old-fashioned and outdated (3)
- Ease of purchasing no matter what the uniform is (1)

FURTHER COMMENTS

The final question of the survey allowing further comments, elicited 172 comments.

Many of these comments were repeated sentiments from previous questions where comments were available. Common themes were:

- White shirts are impractical for young children and hard to keep clean
- Children should be more comfortable and wear uniforms that encourage physical activity
- Uniforms should be easier for children to dress themselves (no culottes & buttons)
- Suggestions of polo shirts that don't require ironing
- Allowing plenty of uniform options based on comfort and the climate
- The current uniform looking very smart and presentable in public
- There are too many mandatory items on the list and buying new items is expensive
- The girls uniform is cumbersome (fabric) and the uniform requirement list is lengthy

CONCLUSIONS

Whilst the majority of parents indicated that they are satisfied with the current uniform, a significant number still want changes made. It is therefore important to be cautious and consultative around any possible substantial changes to the current uniform.

There are recurring themes and enough consensus around some issues such as white shirts, culottes, comfort and affordability, that some changes would be acceptable to most people in the school community.

Therefore, based on the parent and carer survey findings, we can conclude that:

1. Survey respondents like the style and appearance of a formal uniform, however, modifications could be made to make it more modern, modest and comfortable.
 - a) **Modern** – Out-dated items could be identified and eliminated or modernised (e.g., culottes, boot-leg pants, parachute pants)
 - b) **Modest** – Consideration could be given to making current girls uniform items more modest (gaping leg-holes for culottes and see-through nature of the white shirts for developing girls.)
 - c) **Comfortable** – Changes could be considered to make daily wear more **comfortable**, encourage **physical activity** (particularly modifying girls’ uniforms to encourage this) and **encourage independence** when dressing. Special consideration could be given to changing culottes, button-up shirts, cumbersome winter dresses and zippers in culottes and pants.
 2. Separate uniform lists for boys, girls and sports uniform could be maintained, however the uniform list could be streamlined so there is more overlap between summer and winter uniforms. This would result in fewer items to purchase and greater affordability. For example, could the same skirt for girls be part of the summer AND winter uniforms? Could there be one jumper style suitable for the formal uniform and the sports uniform?
 3. There is great discontent with the white shirts for both boys’ and girls’ summer and winter uniforms. Discussion could involve:
 - a) Replacing white shirts with an alternative colour or introducing a patterned shirt that hides the dirt better and looks smarter for longer
 - b) Keeping a white-coloured shirt but changing the style and type of fabric to a polo shirt or similar so that it is easier to clean
 4. Uniform fabrics could be reviewed to allow for skin sensitivities and promote comfort, breathability, and strength.
 5. Uniform options must suit the unpredictable Australian climate. Summer styles and fabrics should be light and breathable enough for hot days and the winter uniform warm enough for cold days. Warmer uniform options could be introduced.
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SCHOOL UNIFORM REVIEW



**STUDENT SURVEY
SUMMARY REPORT
MAY 2022**

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

SURVEY RESPONSES

The student survey link was distributed to all students in Years 3 – 6 via Survey Monkey. Teachers facilitated the students in completing the survey during school hours.

There were 413 responses.

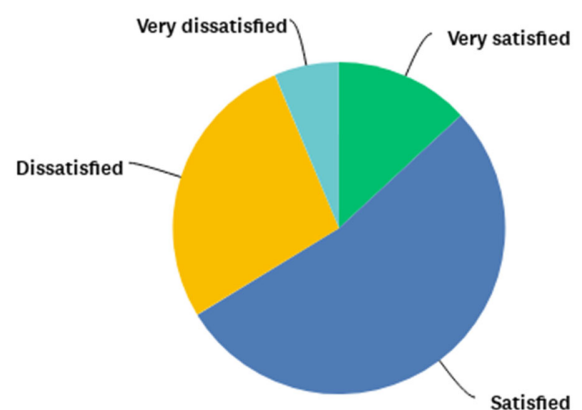
DEMOGRAPHICS

- 49% of survey respondents were boys and 51% were girls.
- 20% were in Year 3, 31% in Year 4, 26% in Year 5 and 24% in Year 6.
- 73% of survey respondents (300 students) have been at BHNPS for more than 4 years.

OVERALL SATISFACTON

66% of survey respondents say that they are either Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the current school uniform at BHNPS.

However, despite this high level of satisfaction, **81% have indicated that they would like changes made.** We will expand on these findings in the rest of the report.



FINDINGS

LIKES

The 3 highest rating answers for what students **like** about the current school uniform were the Colours, the Style/Appearance, and the Community Perception.

There were **79 comments** which can be grouped into these categories:

- Wearing the uniform makes students feel proud of the school and gives a sense of belonging (15)
- The uniform is comfortable (11)
- Students like the colours (5)
- Students like the logo (4)
- Students find it easy to wear (3)

While answering this question, students also commented on dislikes:

- The uniform is uncomfortable and restricts physical movement (19)
- The material is scratchy, heavy or not suitable to climate (10)
- Miscellaneous (12 comments - incl. cost and difficulty in keeping clean)

DISLIKES

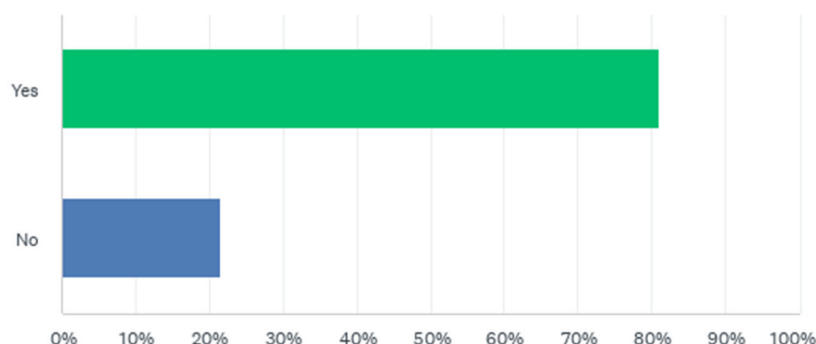
The 3 highest rating answers for what students **disliked** about the current school uniform were the Comfort, Not easy to take on and off, and Other.

There were **109 comments** which can be grouped into these categories:

- The uniform restricts movement and impacts on modesty (17)
- Students find uniform difficult to put on & off- buttons and zippers (14)
- Students find the uniform uncomfortable (13)
- Appropriateness for climate - uniform is either too hot in summer or not warm enough in winter (12)
- Materials - the uniforms are sweaty, itchy and scratchy (8)
- They dislike the colours (6)
- Uniforms are difficult to clean (4)
- They dislike the appearance (4)
- Miscellaneous (e.g. "I'm happy with it" "Nothing" etc) (31)

MAKING A CHANGE - KEY CONSIDERATIONS

When asked if they would like to see changes made to the current school uniform, 81% of students answered "Yes".

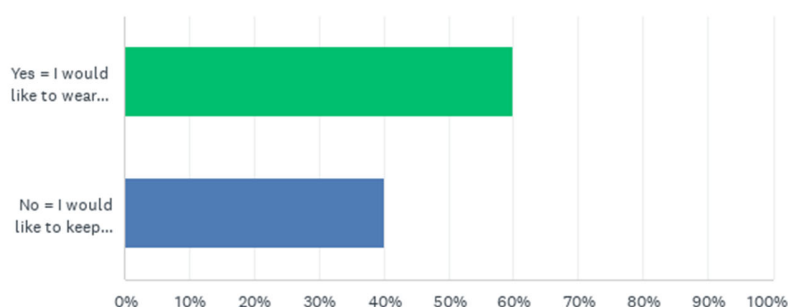


The top 3 considerations for **wanting** a change to the current school uniform were **Comfort** – It needs to be easy to move and play in, **Affordability** for my parents and **Quality** of clothes.

SPORTS UNIFORM

When asked if they would be in favour of wearing sports uniform each day, 60% of students answered Yes, and 40% answered No.

Q9 Would you like to wear a sports uniform each day?



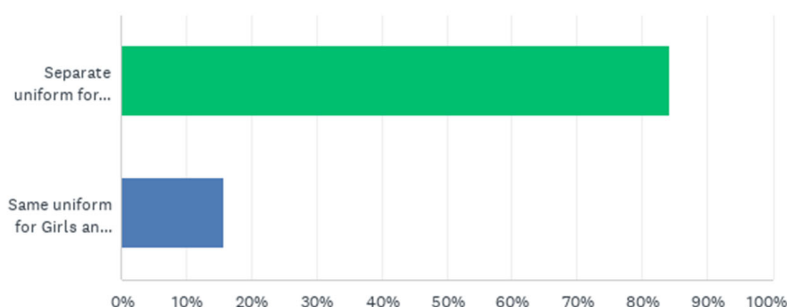
There were **131 comments** which can be grouped into these categories:

- The sports uniform is more comfortable (43)
- Students still think it is important to have a formal uniform for formal occasions like assemblies and representing the school (35)
- If the formal uniform improved, they'd be happy to wear it more (15)
- Appropriateness for climate - the uniform is either too hot in summer or not warm enough in winter (7)
- Miscellaneous (e.g., "Sure" "I love it" 'Don't mind' etc) (31)

UNIFORM LISTS

84% of students prefer to keep separate uniform lists for girls and boys, and 16% would like the same uniform for girls and boys.

Q10 When thinking about student uniform I prefer:



There were **68 comments** which can be grouped into these categories:

- Students like different uniforms to distinguish between genders (19)
- Students want choice in what they wear, particularly for girls in whether they wear shorts and pants instead of skirts and dresses (17)
- Having the same clothes is boring (3)
- Miscellaneous (e.g., "I'm not sure" "I don't mind" etc) (29)

NEW UNIFORM ITEMS - SUGGESTIONS

There were 374 responses when students were asked for suggestions for new uniform items. These can be grouped into the following categories:

- Accessories – Earrings, necklace, watch, bowties, badge, tie (49)
- Hoodies (20)
- Warmer jacket (19)
- Gloves (11)
- Scarf (10)
- Cap (9)
- Warmer sports pants or leggings for girls (9)
- A summer dress for girls (6)
- A Blazer for Stage 3 students (6)
- Beanies (5)
- A new school hat (5)
- Shoes (5)

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- Masks (4)
 - Girls' shorts (4)
 - Soccer uniform (3)
 - Waterproof jacket (2)
 - "No new ideas" (207)

FURTHER COMMENTS

The final question of the survey asking for further comments, elicited 329 responses.

Many of these comments were repeated sentiments from previous questions where comments were available. Common themes were:

- Improving the comfort of the uniform (47)
- The desire for change (26)
- Satisfaction with the current school uniform (19)
- Making changes to ease of putting uniform on and off (10)
- Improving the materials (9)
- Change the colour (8)
- Improving the warmth of the uniform (6)
- Giving students more choice (5)
- Miscellaneous (e.g., Allow mufti, change the hat, introduce a dress, no white shirts) (15)
- "No further comments" (182)

CONCLUSIONS

Whilst the majority of students indicated that they are satisfied with the current uniform, there are enough comments and dissatisfaction with aspects of the uniform to warrant future change.

Based on the student survey findings, we can conclude that:

1. There is a sense of pride in the current uniform
2. The uniform colours of green and white should not change
3. Separate uniform lists for boys, girls and sports uniform should be maintained
4. A priority for any changes could be increasing the comfort of the uniform (particularly the girls summer uniform and the winter uniform) and improving the ease of putting on and off
5. Uniform changes should improve the ability for students to be active and move freely, regardless of body shape, gender, age, and other variables. Consideration should also be given to items that maintain girls' modesty especially for those entering puberty.
6. More choices could be made available for warmer uniform garments.

SCHOOL UNIFORM REVIEW



**STAFF SURVEY
SUMMARY REPORT
MAY 2022**

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

SURVEY RESPONSES

The staff survey link was distributed to 92 staff (teaching and non-teaching) via Survey Monkey.

There were 34 responses.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Employment:

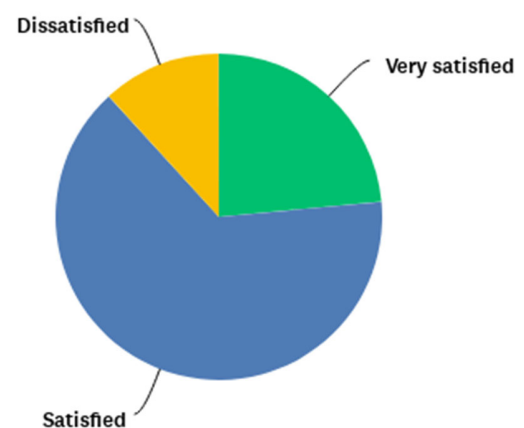
- 50% of survey respondents have worked at BHNPS for 1-5 years
- 26% have worked at BHNPS for 6-10 years
- 24% of survey respondents have worked at BHNPS for more than 11 years.

Teaching area:

- 39% of respondents are in non-classroom based roles
- 15% of respondents teach Year 4
- 15% of respondents teach Year 5
- 12% of respondents teach Year 2
- 9% of respondents teach Kindergarten
- 9% of respondents teach Year 3
- 6% of respondents teach Year 6
- 3% of respondents teach Year 1

OVERALL SATISFACTON

88% of staff say that they are either Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the current school uniform at BHNPS.



FINDINGS

LIKES

The 3 highest rating answers for what staff **like** about the current school uniform were the Style/Appearance, Colours, and that it is Sun Safe.

DISLIKES

The 3 highest rating answers for what staff **disliked** about the current school uniform were the Comfort (Ease of movement), Other, and Colours.

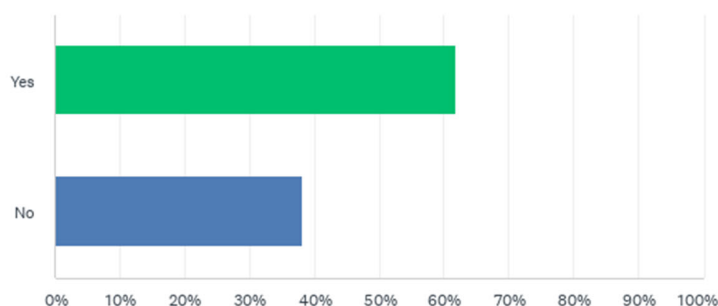
There were **11 comments** on “Other” which can be grouped into the following categories:

- The white shirts are impractical, showing the dirt easily (4)
- The girls culottes are cumbersome and could be shorts or skort (3)
- The children chew on the hat strings (1)
- Boys shouldn't be expected to tuck in their shirts all the time (1)
- Girls sports skort is very short (1)
- Uniforms are too gender specific (1)

MAKING A CHANGE - KEY CONSIDERATIONS

When asked if they would like to see changes made to the current school uniform, 62% of staff answered “Yes”.

Q6 Would you like to see changes made to the current school uniform?



The top 3 considerations for **wanting** a change to the current school uniform were Comfort/Ease of Movement, Gender Neutrality and Suitable for all ages and Body Shapes

SPORTS UNIFORM

When asked if they would be in favour of wearing sports uniform each day, 53% of staff answered No, and 47% answered Yes.

There were 14 comments which can be grouped into the following categories:

- Wearing sports uniform each day would not be appropriate for formal events and could impact on the school's reputation (6)
- Endorsement of wearing sports uniform but eliminating white shirts (3)
- A formal uniform that is more modern and comfortable and that promotes more physical activity would be more suitable for daily wear (2)
- Whether children wear a sports or formal uniform is of no consequence (3)

UNIFORM LISTS

9% of staff prefer to keep separate uniform lists for girls and boys, 35% would a single list of items and 56% don't have a preference.

FURTHER COMMENTS

The final question of the survey asking for further comments, elicited 16 responses. Common themes were:

- Modesty & participation is paramount regardless of any changes (3)
- It is important to remind students to wear the current uniform correctly (2)
- The uniform should be easier for students to dress themselves (esp. culottes) (2)
- White shirts are impractical for students & parents to keep clean (2)
- Suggestion of a Stage 3 jacket (2)
- "No comment" (4)