







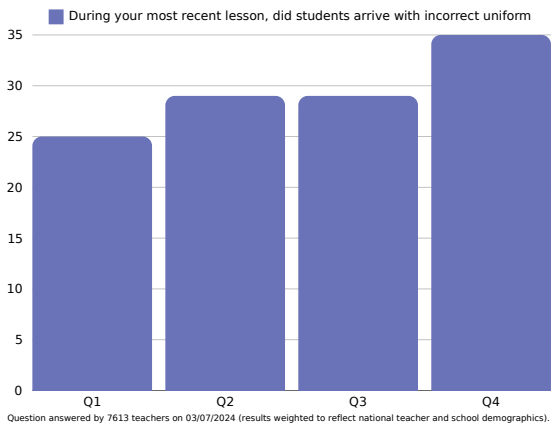
## Teacher Tapp Insights #3:

### Uniforms: teachers and students

Traditional school uniforms are considered quintessentially British - but are schools still embracing the typical blazer, shirt and tie uniform compared to previous years? And if not, what are they doing instead? And how strict are dress codes for the teachers?

#### Key Statistics from Teacher Tapp

<p><b>Far more</b> primary schools allowed trainers compared to secondary schools (56% vs 13%).</p> 	<p><b>56%</b> of male secondary school teachers are still expected to wear ties... But the same is expected of just <b>10%</b> of male primary school teachers!</p>	<p><b>73%</b> of male students wear ties compared to <b>56%</b> of female students.</p> 	<p>In 2019 <b>38%</b> of male primary teachers could wear formal shorts, in 2024 it is <b>64%</b>.</p> 
<p>Female students in Ofsted Inadequate or RI schools are <b>more likely</b> to wear ties compared to female students in Good or Outstanding schools (50% vs 36%/30%)</p>	<p>Fewer teachers are in favour of 'shirt and blazer uniforms (<b>36%</b> in 2023 vs <b>47%</b> in 2021).</p> 	<p>More state secondary schools require ties of their pupils compared to private secondaries (<b>75% vs 63%</b>).</p> 	<p>Primaries are more likely than secondaries to have gender-neutral uniform policies (<b>52%</b> vs <b>34%</b>)</p> 



#### How much lesson time does correcting school uniforms take up?

Correcting student uniforms is a common occurrence for teachers. In the most affluent schools, teachers spend around **25%** of lessons addressing uniform issues, but in the most disadvantaged schools, that number jumps to **35%**.

Interestingly, when we compared responses from summer and autumn 2024, fewer teachers in autumn reported students breaking uniform rules—perhaps a sign that standards are slipping as the year progresses?

When it comes to punishing incorrect uniforms with isolation, teachers in the most deprived areas are **less likely** to support this (45%) compared to those in affluent schools (40%).

**TALKING POINT:** How much lesson time is used for uniform corrections? How consistent are teachers in addressing uniform violations?

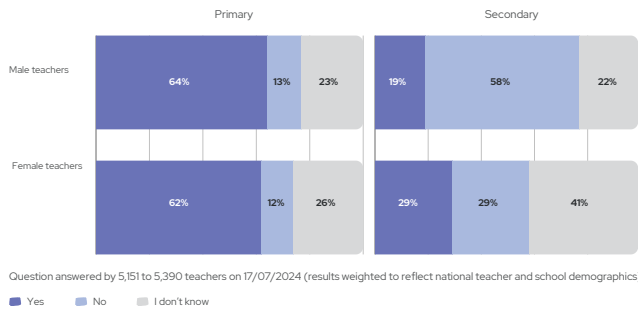
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# Uniforms

Are teachers allowed to wear formal shorts to school?



In primary schools, **the majority of male AND female teachers** are allowed to wear shorts (64% and 62%). Over in secondary, **just 19% of male teachers and 29% of female teachers** can have formal shorts as part of their workwear wardrobe.



**TALKING POINT:** Are your staff dress code policies inclusive for everyone? Do they reflect the needs of your current staff? Have you used staff surveys to find out what staff think of your current policies?

In the King's Speech in July 2024, uniforms appeared: "introducing legislation to limit the number of branded items of uniform and PE kits that a school can require to bring down costs for parents and remove barriers from children accessing sport and other school activities."

Currently, 18% of schools have four or more branded items as part of their uniform.

Learning to fold a school tie was once an essential skill for students. But is the tie gradually disappearing from school uniforms?

There has been a small but steady increase in schools removing ties, particularly in primary schools, with a similar trend now emerging in secondary schools.

Currently, **19%** of male primary students wear ties, down from **21%** last year, while **14%** of female students wear them, a decrease from **18%**. The numbers suggest that ties may soon become a less common feature of school uniforms.



**TALKING POINT:** Do you still require students to wear ties? If so, what is your rationale? How supportive are your parents of the school uniform rules?

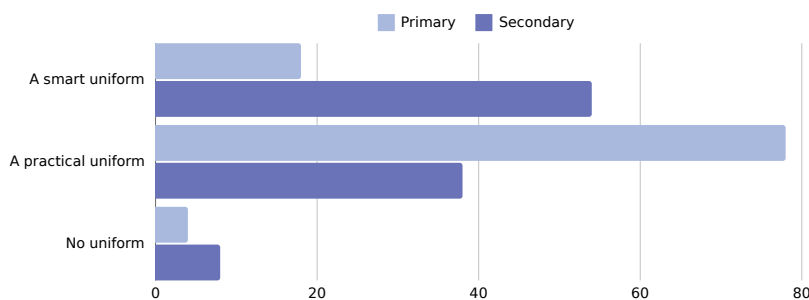


**73%** of male students in secondary schools wear ties, down from 76% last year.



**56%** of female students in secondary schools wear ties, down from 59% last year.

Some schools don't have a uniform at all and these tend to be **mostly in London (7%)**. Levels around the rest of the country are **lower**: Yorkshire and the North East (4%), the Midlands, the South East and North West (3%) and the lowest in the East of England (1%).



Enthusiasm for a smart uniform (one that contains a blazer, shirt, tie etc) is stronger in secondary than it is in primary (54% vs 18%). However, a 'practical' uniform is still the choice of 38% of secondary teachers.



**TALKING POINT:** Does a more relaxed uniform impact behaviour of pupils? How practical is your uniform for all subjects?

