

School children punished over wrong trousers

8th September, 2014



A school in Britain has apologised to more than 50 students for punishing them after they wore the wrong trousers to class. Pupils at Heaton

Manor school in the north of England were taken out of class and given detention for not conforming to school uniform rules. They had to spend around eight hours in a small classroom for breaking the rules. School bosses said many of the trousers were "skintight" and were not appropriate dress for school. Head teacher Lynne Ackland explained that the school had been in the process of tightening its uniform rules. She said she had not anticipated the variety of trouser styles her pupils would wear. She admitted the school had been too strict with the students.

Parents were furious at the treatment their children received. A mother of an 11-year-old told reporters: "[My daughter] was in that room for eight hours yesterday and she was deeply distressed. I'd understand if she'd behaved badly, but this is punishment for a pair of trousers the teachers don't like....She's lost two days' education because of this ridiculous rule and I'm absolutely livid." She added: "We were sent out letters from the school to say pupils must wear black, tailored trousers. In my opinion, [my daughter's] trousers are tailored; they are not skintight. The school should be more specific." Ms Ackland said: "We clearly need to be much more specific with people in future."

Sources: *The Guardian* / *The Independent*

Writing

All schools should have a strict school uniform policy. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

apologized / punishing / pupils / detention / school uniform / appropriate / variety / furious / deeply distressed / pair of trousers / ridiculous / opinion / specific / future

True / False

- A school in England apologised to over 500 students. T / F
- Students were given 8 hours' detention for not following a dress code. T / F
- A school boss said skintight trousers were inappropriate for school. T / F
- The head teacher said the school should have been stricter. T / F
- Parents agreed with the students getting detention. T / F
- One parent was angry her daughter had lost two days of education. T / F
- The school did not send a letter informing parents of the dress code. T / F
- The head teacher said the school should be clearer about uniforms. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. apologised | a. assortment |
| 2. conforming | b. contravening |
| 3. breaking | c. anguished |
| 4. appropriate | d. absurd |
| 5. variety | e. said sorry |
| 6. furious | f. viewpoint |
| 7. distressed | g. suitable |
| 8. ridiculous | h. complying |
| 9. opinion | i. exact |
| 10. specific | j. enraged |

Discussion – Student A

- Are standards of behaviour in schools getting worse?
- Do uniforms prepare students for life at work?
- Are uniforms important for giving the school a good image?
- Do uniforms take away a student's individuality?
- Would it be OK for students to have tattoos and face piercing?
- Is there a difference between skintight and tailored trousers?
- Brits say "trousers" and Americans say "pants". Which is best?
- What questions would you like to ask the school head?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. A school in Britain has apologised | a. badly |
| 2. given detention for | b. dress for school |
| 3. not appropriate | c. tailored trousers |
| 4. in the process of tightening | d. variety of trouser styles |
| 5. she had not anticipated the | e. to more than 50 students |
| 6. she was deeply | f. rule |
| 7. I'd understand if she'd behaved | g. distressed |
| 8. this ridiculous | h. not conforming |
| 9. pupils must wear black, | i. more specific |
| 10. We clearly need to be much | j. its uniform rules |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of school uniforms?
- Should the school have apologised to the students?
- Should the parents have bought the right trousers?
- What did (do) you think of your school uniform?
- Is eight hours detention for breaking rules too strict?
- Should all schools have a strict dress code?
- What are the advantages of children wearing a uniform?
- Why do children dislike wearing uniforms?

Spelling

- ogspoldaie to more than 50 students
- given eidotnnet for not conforming
- many of the trousers were "gstiihnkt"
- not opipaaretrp dress for school
- she had not diciattapne the variety
- She deidattm the school had been too strict
- Parents were urosiuf at the treatment
- she was deeply itdsssedre
- ... because of this irdiloscuu rule
- I'm ustolabley livid
- black, ldaitore trousers
- be much more cefsiicp

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. g	5. a
6. j	7. c	8. d	9. f	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Purple hair

You think purple hair is the biggest no-no for schools. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so serious about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): facial tattoos, bullying or cheating in exams.

Role B – Facial tattoos

You think facial tattoos are the biggest no-no for schools. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so serious about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): purple hair, bullying or cheating in exams.

Role C – Bullying

You think bullying is the biggest no-no for schools. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so serious about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): facial tattoos, purple hair or cheating in exams.

Role D – Cheating in exams

You think cheating in exams is the biggest no-no for schools. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so serious about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): facial tattoos, bullying or purple hair.

Speaking – School no-no's

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest school no-no's at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| • purple hair | • nose ring |
| • facial tattoo | • truancy |
| • smoking | • bullying |
| • sleeping in class | • cheating |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.