

# Comparison of Chinese and British School Uniform Culture

陈禹霖 王博想

# Contents

- Chapter 1. History
  - Section 1.1. Initial Stage
  - Section 1.2. The 20th Century
  - Section 1.3. The 21st Century
- Chapter 2. School Uniform System
- Chapter 3. Spirit

# Chapter 1. History

# Section 1.1. Initial Stage

- United Kingdom

United Kingdom is one of the first countries in the world to appear school uniforms. The history of school uniforms in England begins in 1552 with Christ Hospital, the first school to introduce a uniform. The Victorian era popularized the sailor suit for children.

- China

The concept of school uniforms in China has ancient roots, dating back to the Confucian era where students donned simple, uniform attire. However, the modern interpretation of school uniforms was introduced by Western missionaries who established schools in China.

# Section 1.2. The 20th Century

- United Kingdom

By the 20th century, uniforms became more standardized, particularly in public schools, and often included elements like soft collars, ties, and specific colors. In the 1920s, the basic uniform styles we recognize today were established.

However, over time, some elements like pointed caps and sandals have fallen out of favor. Post-World War I, state schools began to adopt uniforms more widely.

- China

The early 20th century saw the rise of "gown schools," where students wore uniforms, marking a significant shift in Chinese educational attire. In the 1950s to 1970s, Chinese school uniforms were heavily influenced by adult clothing styles, with simple white shirts and blue pants being the norm. Post-economic reforms, the 1980s brought a resurgence of the school uniform culture, with a shift towards more comfortable and practical sportswear, reflecting the country's opening up and economic growth.

# Section 1.3. The 21st Century

- United Kingdom

Entering the 21st century, school uniforms in the UK have seen some relaxation in dress codes. Some schools have moved towards more casual attire, with fewer boys wearing shorts and more opting for trousers. The traditional uniform components like ties and black shoes are being replaced with more casual items like sweatshirts and sneakers. Despite these changes, many schools continue to require some form of uniform.

- China

Today, Chinese school uniforms are primarily divided into two categories: sportswear and Western-style attire. The sportswear, often in solid colors with school emblems, dominates due to its practicality and affordability. In contrast, urban and private schools may opt for more formal Western-style uniforms, sometimes inspired by Japanese designs, indicating a move towards more diverse and school-specific attire.

# Chapter 2. School Uniform System



# Chapter 2. School Uniform System

- United Kingdom

United Kingdom schools require students to wear corresponding school uniforms on different occasions and at different ages, the significance is to cultivate and stipulate that students should know how to carry out activities in accordance with the corresponding rules in different scenarios, in United Kingdom schools, from the age of three students are required to wear uniforms, but when they gradually enter adulthood, the school will no longer force students to wear uniform school uniforms, but there will still be requirements for students to wear, There is a certain saying about when and on what occasion to wear Blazer or Jackets or Suits.

- China

Typically, students are required to wear uniforms on regular school days, especially during formal classes and school events. The enforcement of school uniform policies ranges from strict to lenient, depending on the school. In many schools, particularly in urban areas, wearing a uniform is compulsory, and students who fail to comply may face disciplinary actions, ranging from warnings to demerits. However, in some progressive schools, especially in private or international settings, there may be a more relaxed approach, allowing students to express their individuality within certain boundaries.



# Chapter 3. Spirit

# Chapter 3. Spirit

- United Kingdom

On one hand the school uniform is an representation of the school rule and school spirit. On the other hand, if you see big things from small one, you can see that behind the school uniform culture is actually the influence of the powerful Western contract culture. In addition to school, British people pay great attention to etiquette in the whole society. Wearing is the most important and critical point in etiquette culture. Wearing represents and shows a person's mental outlook and external temperament, and is the key to giving people a first impression.

- China

School uniforms in China are more than a uniform code; they are a symbol of collective identity and school spirit. They foster a sense of belonging and equality among students, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds. Moreover, they embody the evolving educational idea of China, which values discipline, unity, and the expression of school culture.