

St Columba's Uniform Swap Shop

Our uniform swap shop aims to re-home outgrown school uniform, by doing so we can help the environment and save parents money. Children's clothes last, on average, for 3 years however they are often outgrown long before they wear out.

Under the new uniform guidance, each school is now required to have arrangements for parents to access second-hand uniform. We are willing and able to provide this service for local schools. Schools can advertise our free swap shop to families and, where possible, provide us with any unclaimed lost property to increase our supply of branded uniform.

The manufacture of each kilogram of clothing produces, on average, 7.824kg of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Parents who choose secondhand uniform no longer need to buy new items, which lessens the demand for brand new clothing, therefore when we pass on donated clothing we save CO₂ from being released into the atmosphere. We weigh the uniform donations from each school and use this to work out how much CO₂ would be released if the clothes weren't reused and new clothes were bought in their place. In September we send a certificate for your school to celebrate your environmental impact.

This summer more than 1000 items of clothing were passed on to new homes through our swap shop. The families of more than 200 children came to choose clothing from the Swap Shop, including many from Highfields School. We have branded uniform from more than 50 different schools within Wolverhampton along with many generic items such as shirts, polos, trousers, skirts and summer dresses. Some of the families who visited us were interested in the Swap Shop because of the environmental impact that clothing has on the planet; for others it was a much-needed resource to help them kit out their children for the new school year as inexpensively as possible.

Our uniform swap shop currently opens during each end-of-term holiday so we will be open again at Easter for parents to come and choose free pre-loved uniform for their children. We are currently converting one of our meeting rooms to be a permanent home and will then open on a more regular basis during term time. Parents are welcome to contact us at any time to request uniform and, if we have it in stock, we will arrange for them to collect it from us. Please do advertise us to your parents, our opening times for the Easter holidays will be posted on our Facebook page [@stcolumbaswolverhampton](#) and you are welcome to contact us via email- events@stcolumbasurc.com.