

## Press Release - Edinburgh School Uniform Bank

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

### Charity referrals for school uniform have DOUBLED

Volunteers at Edinburgh School Uniform Bank are receiving requests for back-to-school packs at an alarming rate, with twice the number of referrals coming in compared to the same period last year.

Referrals are made for a variety of reasons including families suffering the effects of domestic violence, young carers, low income and benefit problems. Any child going to school in the “wrong” clothes is vulnerable to stigma, lack of confidence, social exclusion and poor engagement with school. Edinburgh School Uniform Bank seeks to tackle these issues early by providing new school uniform as well as essentials like school bags and stationery.

Julia Grindley, Trustee, commented *“Every child and young person deserves the chance to go into school with their heads held high, fitting in with their peers and ready to do their best. We need the support of the local community to make sure that every child in Edinburgh has someone buying a new set of school uniform for them. Nobody should have to go without.”*

The charity is asking local families and businesses to “sponsor a child” by buying a back-to-school set of uniform. A pack of uniform is so much more than a bag of clothes; it provides dignity and a sense of being valued to a child who is facing hardship, as well as practical support for parents and carers.

A Family Worker who requested school uniform on behalf of a family said *“I just wanted to thank you again for the amazing uniform donation for the family I work with. They were overjoyed and mum cried she was so relieved and delighted. The boys were so excited that they have packed their new school bags already!”*

Details of how to support the charity’s work are on their website [www.edinburghuniform.org](http://www.edinburghuniform.org) and there are drop-off points for donations all over the city.

### Notes to editors

Edinburgh School Uniform Bank has been operating since 2015 and became a registered charity in 2017. With no employees, all work is undertaken by volunteers from their base at Balerno High School. We serve the whole of the City of Edinburgh.

We operate a referral system where professionals such as guidance teachers, family workers and third-sector partners like Women’s Aid and Barnardos can request school uniform on behalf of a child or a family. We provide new items whenever we can, and we add in “extras” of nearly-new clothing on some occasions. A typical back-to-school pack contains 2 jumpers, 2 pairs of trousers or skirts, a pack of shirts, a filled pencil case, gym shorts and T shirt, and a school bag.

This year, the number of back-to-school requests (472 so far) is over double the number for the equivalent period last year (233). Demand has been rising rapidly even before this summer: in the whole of 2018 the total number of referrals (644) was over twice the number for 2017 (308).

### Contact details

Edinburgh School Uniform Bank

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