

Press Release - Edinburgh School Uniform Bank

1st July 2020

Over £5,000 raised in 24 hours for local children

Local charity **Edinburgh School Uniform Bank** has raised over **£5,000** in the first **24 hours** of their appeal to support children to go back to school with dignity, confidence and a sense of belonging. Generous supporters have stepped up to “**sponsor a child**” by donating the cost of a set of new school uniform.

Children will need a sense of belonging more than ever when they go back to school in August. Their lives have been turned upside down and many of them miss the routine and normality of conventional school.

Uniform plays an important part in this but sadly, many families have been plunged into crisis in recent months, adding to the thousands of children who are growing up in poverty. Many families do not have their own washing machine, so it is more important than ever that children have enough changes of clothes for school.

Edinburgh School Uniform Bank is a volunteer-run charity which supports families all over Edinburgh from our base in Balerno. We aim to help children fit in and do their best at school by providing new school uniform. We receive requests for help via professionals like pupil support teachers and family workers, and our team of dedicated volunteers make up bespoke packs of uniform for each child.

Operations were suspended during the lockdown but the requests for help started flooding in as soon as we re-opened. On the first day alone, we received **77 referrals** and we expect to receive **hundreds** more during the rest of the summer.

One of our professional partners told us that *“Many of the parents have broken down and cried with relief receiving the uniform packs as financial hardship is a huge issue for many of the families we support”*.

Another referring partner said: *“This service has been a huge benefit for all the families that I have referred. If it hadn't been for the service many families may have had to cut back on meals to find money to provide school uniform for their young people.”*

This year, local children need the community to rally round more than ever. We usually ask people to shop for uniform then drop it in to us, but given the current restrictions we are running an online appeal instead at www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/uniform2020. Many more donations are needed to make sure that every child has someone buying new school uniform for them. A basic pack of uniform costs around £40 for a child at primary school or £65 for a teenager, and other contributions are also very welcome.

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 our base at Balerno High School. We serve the whole of the City of Edinburgh.

A typical back-to-school pack contains 2 jumpers, 2 pairs of trousers or skirts, a pack of shirts, a filled pencil case, underwear and socks.

In 2019 we provided bespoke packs of new uniform to 1,009 children at an average cost of approximately £50 each. Numerous other children benefit from nearly-new uniform that we distribute through schools and community groups.

We receive no government or council funding. We rely on donations from the local community and grants from funding bodies.

Contact details

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