



Special points of interest:

- Individuality
- Stereotyping in schools
- School uniform effecting people's self esteem
- Stereotype examples

Imogen and Charlotte

Individuality; is it a reality?

To begin with we would like to inform you on the true definition of individuality; the quality or character of a particular person or thing that distinguishes them from others of the same kind.

Today, people who carry out this meaning within themselves are often labeled and put into stereotypical groups.

In schools one of the main rules is that you have to wear uniform to represent the school, but this could limit a pupil's self esteem towards their individuality.

Today, in schools, it isn't just uniform restricting pupils from showing their true style, it also includes rules against dying hair certain colours, and having facial piercings.

This means that pupils can't dye their hair and have the piercings they want until they leave school, and they also can't express their style.



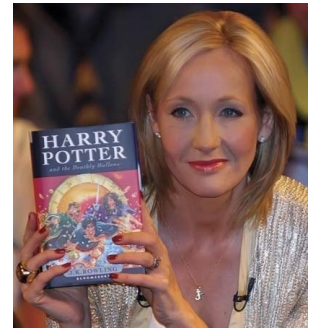
Two Cynffig pupils in school uniform and casual clothes.

We asked a pupil in the school for her views on school uniform and individuality. She said,

"Individuality is knowing who you are and being true to yourself. School uniform identifies you as a pupil, but not as an individual, and it restricts you to what you wear, and you can't show who you are. If a rule was put into place to say that school uniform wasn't compulsory, it would affect the schools appearance, but also the pupils, as they may not be able to afford the same clothes as everyone else. But, this rule would ensure that everyone could show their personality."

We also interviewed a member of staff for her opinion. She said, "individuality is self identity and a way of expressing yourself and being true to yourself. School uniform is good for the school identity, but can repress individuality. Uniform can be detrimental and can effect self expression. No uniform would allow people to be more free with self expression and it would also allow people to experiment and explore personality and style. It would allow people to be seen as individuals, not a mass of pupils."

People find it hard to be themselves outside school because they can't be themselves in school. People get automatically make opinions about a person's personality and style, but that idea could be totally different to how they are at home, away from a crowd.



Not all blondes are unintelligent. Here is J.K Rowling, the author of one of the most popular, best selling books– Harry Potter.

Some of the main stereotypical groups are Goths; they wear black, dark makeup and are depressed, punks; they wear Mohawks, spikes and chains and are always getting into trouble, blondes; unintelligent and have fake personalities.

This clearly isn't the case as many intelligent people are blonde, for example, J.K Rowling is blonde, and she has written some of the most popular, best selling books. Also, many people wear black, and that doesn't make them a Goth. It could just mean that they feel more confident in black.

An example of acting upon stereotyping is that in 2008 a Goth couple were beaten to death by two teenage boys. When the case was taken to court, they found out that the attackers did not know the couple, who were both Goths, and the only motive was they simply looked different,

