

# Iwata School Uniform Selection Committee Newsletter

August/2024



The second School Uniform Selection Committee meeting was held, using drafts from other cities as references for discussions on proposal formats and selecting a Master Maker.



There is a request for functionality, durability, and specific color blending ratios to facilitate easier comparison.

It would be beneficial to consider growth over three years and incorporate ease of alteration into the design.

Suggestions for summer uniforms are desired. What would be the ideal specification? And how are manufacturers thinking about this?

The school should innovate its uniform designs and usage guidelines. Preference is for the standard uniform throughout school life. Currently, sports attire is worn underneath due to insufficient changing facilities. It's important to reconsider these facilities in this gender-neutral era.

Cost benefits emerge when considering the long-term perspective. It is essential to confirm and demonstrate comparisons with current situations.



In the future, even if the master maker conducts student opinion surveys and design voting, this committee wishes to closely monitor them.



**Based on the committee's comments, the requirements for the bid will be put together and announced later on the Iwata City website for public bidding..**

The previous updates were posted on each middle school's website, addressing feedback received:

**Q1: Will the current uniform prices increase?**

**A:** Price is a major concern for parents. The Iwata Uniform Selection Committee emphasizes the importance of functionality, durability, and affordability. To achieve this, we are developing specifications based on which any manufacturer can produce and sell uniforms. This approach promotes fair competition and ensures an optimal balance between quality and cost. We will collaborate with manufacturers and retailers to ensure prices are affordable for parents.

**Q2: Isn't it uneconomical if hand-me-downs can't be reused with the new uniforms?**

**A:** We consider a transition period of three years for the new uniforms, including evaluating transition periods at each middle school.

**Q3: Did voices from parents and children request a change in uniforms? Is there a need for surveys among parents and children who purchase uniforms?**

**A:** The Iwata School Uniform Evaluation Committee conducted a survey in 2023 school year with parents of elementary school students (4th grade of Shogakko to 3rd grade of Chūgakko), junior high school students (1st to 3rd grades), and local teachers.

Students currently using uniforms expressed a strong desire for garments that better suit the weather and allow ease of movement. There was a particularly strong request for pants, especially among girls. Parents emphasized the need for functionality. Based on these findings, the Committee decided to transition to new uniforms.

At the time of the survey, we were planning to introduce new uniforms for the 2026 school year. We placed special emphasis on the opinions of parents and students who actually use the uniforms, limiting the survey to parents of elementary school students (Shogakko) and using the results as a reference.

**Q4: Are there cost benefits?**

**A:** Using the term "cost benefit," we not only anticipate cost savings from introducing uniforms uniformly across Iwata, but also consider factors such as reuse within the same city when transferring schools or among relatives, as well as the time and effort involved in deciding on new uniforms. Moving forward, we will recruit a company known as the Master Maker to create uniform specifications so that uniforms can be produced by any manufacturer. In the recruitment guidelines for "Specifications Developer for New Uniform Introduction," we will specify the desire for lower costs compared to when uniforms are established by individual schools.

**Q5: What about giving the freedom not to wear uniforms?**

**A:** At present, we are not considering granting the freedom not to wear uniforms. In the previous year's Uniform Consideration Committee, it was decided that uniforms are necessary due to benefits such as enhancing school spirit and a sense of belonging, and their appropriateness for events like ceremonies, entrance exams, and formal occasions. Opinions from surveys targeting students, parents, and guardians indicated a need for uniforms. In introducing new uniforms, our aim is to allow students to choose their attire according to events, seasons, and health conditions. We also want to engage in deeper discussions within the evolving trends of our times, including reconsidering whether uniforms are necessary, including the freedom not to wear them.

