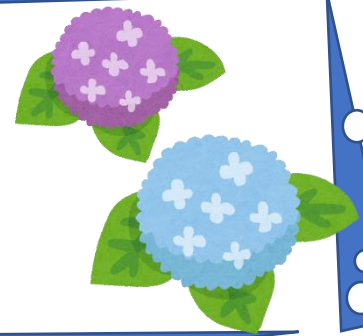


Iwata Uniform Committee Newsletter

July 2024



We held our first meeting to select the school uniforms. The secretariat presented the report prepared by the committee in February 2024.



Currently in Iwata:

- ☆1 school uses blazer-style uniforms.
- ☆9 schools adopt uniforms with high collars or sailor-style.

Movements by Local and Regional Authorities:

- The final decision on uniforms will be made by the school principal, with input from parents and the school community.
- Respect for LGBTQ + diversity.
- The cities of Kakegawa and Fukuroi will adopt new uniforms starting in 2024, following local evaluations.
- In Hamamatsu, a commission was established to study uniforms for elementary and junior high schools in 2023.

○Pros and ▲Cons of Uniforms:

- Reduces economic differences among students.
- Increases school pride and sense of belonging.
- Eliminates daily worries about clothing choice.
- Suitable for formal occasions.
- ▲ Can be hot in summer and cold in winter.
- ▲ Limits movement and may not be very comfortable.
- ▲ Restricts variety in clothing styles.

Survey Results in Iwata: (Participants included elementary and junior high school students, parents, and teachers)

- There was a strong desire for practical uniforms suitable for various weather conditions.
- Students valued design, while parents and teachers showed less concern in this aspect.

Desired Features for Future Iwata Uniforms:

- Practicality (easy home washing, waterproofing, quick drying, simple length adjustment), affordability, and versatility.
- Transitioning to blazer-style uniforms.



Future plans of the Uniform Review Committee in Iwata (during the school year 2024-2025):

1. Drafting proposals for manufacturers.
2. Selecting the main manufacturer through a proposal process.
3. Refining samples.
4. Final design decision based on opinion surveys.

Each school will consider the following:

- When to introduce the new uniforms.
- How to handle the transition period.
- Whether to require ties or ribbons.
- Selection between Y-shirts and polo shirts.

In the Uniform Review Committee report, the director representing Junior High Schools addressed the committee's purpose, underscored the importance of uniforms, emphasized the need for uniformity within the city, and outlined plans for the transition period. Below is a summary in a question and answer format:



Q: Why was the decision made to change the uniforms?

A: The decision was driven by climate changes and recent rapid social transformations, questioning the practicality and comfort of current uniforms. There's a need for uniforms adjustable to varying temperatures, as sailor uniforms lack this flexibility. Additionally, skirts are impractical in winter and raise safety concerns for biking students. There's significant demand for pants and skirts suitable for various occasions such as ceremonies and entrance exams.

Q: Why is standardizing uniforms in Iwata necessary?

A: Standardized uniforms in Iwata will bring cost savings to parents and streamline recycling efforts. Moreover, students won't need new uniforms if transferred within the city.

Q: Will Junior High School uniforms in Iwata be identical?

A: To reduce financial burdens, we're considering adopting the same design (blazer, pants, skirt) across Junior High Schools in Iwata. The decision on ties and ribbons will vary by school. Each school will also choose between Y-neck shirts or polo shirts.

Q: When will the uniform change take place? What will be the duration of the transition period?

A: There are plans to introduce new uniforms starting from the fiscal year 2026. The decision to adopt them will depend on each school. Ideally, the transition should be implemented over a three-year period, with careful consideration by each school for the future.



Opinions Discussed During the Group Session:

We want to hear from the students of Nagafuji Gakufu who are already using the new uniforms.

Junior high school students are concerned about both the style and functionality of the uniforms.

With advancements in materials, we can have uniforms suitable for physical activities with a modern look.

It is important that the uniforms can adjust to each student's growth.



Should the price reflect the comfort and quality of the material? Is the choice of model crucial?

We should consider the research results when making decisions.

Some students prefer clothes that are already available in the market.

It is better to wear clothes that are easy to wash.

We aim to increase opportunities for wearing the school uniform.