

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

During Spring 2021 it was identified by the Community Development team that were working amongst the Covid Community Hub, that there were many families across South Ribble who were struggling to afford items like school uniform for their children. The effect of the pandemic meant that pressure on some parents and guardians had increased due to being negatively affected by the loss of income maybe due to furlough scheme or having to isolate and being absent from work.

We also realised that a lot of families would have purchased school uniform for the school year 2019/20 and it was highly likely it was unused, or certainly had little wear in it. We put a plan together and advertised for reusable school uniform in March. The residents of South Ribble supported us very well and we collected a huge amount of uniform. Council officers and members spent time organising and sorting the event which was held week commencing 9th August 2021.

The School Uniform Shop was communicated through to schools and on our Hub Facebook pages. Families made appointments to come and see us at the Civic centre where it was arranged by style, size and colour. We are thrilled to say we supported 118 families and received some of the following feedback:

- One parent had just moved from Manchester and was absolutely amazed with the initiative, she said she never felt like she got support like this before she moved.
- Two parents were looking for uniform, unfortunately we did not have the correct item available for one parent, however another parent overheard and said that she had some at home and arranged to take to the other parent.
- Several families commented that the initiative has eased some financial pressure due to cost of uniform, meaning that they still afford essentials such as food.

The next phase of the uniform shop is to redistribute the uniform to schools as 'spares' if they choose to, to support families moving to the area, such as Afghan refugees and finally we are investigating ways to ensure that the remaining uniform is recycled and utilised.

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