

Uniform Rescue

Giving school uniforms a second life

June 2020



Key Dates

- Term 1 Shipment to Kenya
- Term 3/4 Shipment to Kenya to be confirmed

Running Total

Over 6.8 tonnes (6,872 kg) of uniforms, equating to approximately 13,000 uniform items, have found a new home overseas since 2016.



Latest News

COVID-19

Given the COVID-19 restrictions, shipments to Kenya with PEK Care International have been put on hold. In the meantime, we ask that you still collect uniforms if you can and store them until shipments resume.

However, if you have a significant number of items and do not have storage space, we may be able to arrange storage with PEK Care until they resume their shipments.

What do we do?

We collect unwanted second-hand uniforms from schools around Western Australia, which cannot be repurposed locally due to their branding and may otherwise end up in landfill. We then donate them to schools and communities overseas who can give the uniforms a second life



The charities we support

PEK Care International

[PEK Care International](#) assists disabled children in Kenya to obtain wheelchairs so they can attend school.

From a base in Perth, PEK sends a shipping container of wheelchairs to Kenya every few months and fills any spare space with other donated items, including school uniforms, bags and shoes. PEK connects with a Kenyan charity, [Teule Kenya](#) who operate many schools and orphanages, to help distribute the donated items.

Global Hand Charity

We have also supported [Global Hand Charity](#) and their work in Laos, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

We are always on the look-out for new charities to support and new and innovative ways to transport uniforms overseas, so please let us know if you have a contact or idea.

Other ways to recycle uniforms

If you have old uniforms that are insufficient quality to be worn again (and therefore can't be donated to Uniform Rescue), you may want to check out other ways of recycling uniforms.

See ownyourimpact.com for ideas and local contacts.

Be inventive – old uniforms can make great school craft projects!



Frequently asked questions

Guidance on what can be donated, how and when



What uniform can be donated?

We encourage uniforms to be re-used locally where possible (e.g. selling as second hand through uniform shops or the online [Sustainable School Shop](#)). However, due to their branding, many still-functional uniform items cannot be re-used locally e.g. following a change in uniform style or an oversupply of second-hand items. We collect these unwanted uniform items.

What items are accepted?

We accept uniform items in a condition that can be worn (minor stains and signs of wear are acceptable, but zips, buttons and other fastenings should function). Items include clothing (formal and sports), bags, accessories (ties, belts, socks), hats and shoes.

How do we arrange for our uniforms to be donated?

Contact us to arrange drop off or pick up.

When can uniforms be donated?

We prefer to collect or receive donations close to the time they can be taken by the relevant charity (given we have limited storage space). This may be several times a year - the dates are indicated in the front of this newsletter. We can, however, receive items at other times upon specific request.

How should uniforms be packed?

We prefer items to be neatly folded and tightly packed in sealed backpacks, sports bags and sturdy plastic bags (not garbage bags). This is so they can be easily packed to fill space in shipping containers, or be used as plane luggage. Boxes can be accepted, but are not preferred.

How can we collect uniforms at our school?

Many schools collect their unwanted uniform through their uniform shops. Some schools have specific donation bins available all year round. Other schools may have occasional collections.

When there is a change in uniform style be sure to provide additional opportunity for obsolete uniforms to be collected to avoid them being thrown to landfill. Give them a second life instead!



Any further questions, please contact:

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