

Uniform Rescue

Giving school uniforms a second life

March 2024



Key Dates

Mid Term 2 2024 Collection

Mid Term 4 2024 Collection

Running Total

Since 2016, almost 11 tonnes (10,9522 kg) of uniforms, equating to approximately 22,000 uniform items, have been donated to have a second life overseas.



Latest News

Next Collection

The next collection will be in mid Term 2 2024, to be shipped to Kenya with PEK Care International.

Overseas donation should be the last resort!

Please remember that we only take items for donation overseas as a last resort. We encourage you to look at all local options for recycling and reuse before you donate to us. See page 2 for ideas.

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

Uniform Rescue partners with existing charities to transport and distribute school uniforms to those in need overseas

PEK Care International

[PEK Care International](#) is a Charity registered here in WA and Kenya. PEK stands for “People Endeavouring to Bless”, assisting disabled children in Kenya to obtain wheelchairs so they can attend school, as well as providing water and food programs.

From a base in Perth, PEK sends shipping containers of wheelchairs and other donated items (including uniform items from Uniform Rescue) to Mombasa in Kenya. The Kenyan Chapter of PEK then distributes the donated uniforms to schools and orphanages in Maasai land.

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

Please remember that we aim to take items for donation overseas only as a last resort! We encourage you to look at all local options for recycling and reuse before you donate to us.

If you have uniform items that are new (or near new) and unbranded (e.g. end of line designs such as socks, tights) charities such as [Dress for Success](#) may be very appreciative of these items.

If your uniforms are insufficient quality to be



worn again (and therefore can't be donated to Uniform Rescue), please check out other ways of recycling these items. Be inventive – old uniforms can make great art and 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 clean 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 are uniforms 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 require items to be neatly folded and tightly packed in re-usable sealed backpacks, sports bags and non-plastic bags (not garbage bags). This is so they can be easily transported and are more sustainable (e.g. do not create plastic-based waste). Cardboard boxes can be accepted.

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:

0434 977 128
uniformrescuewa@gmail.com

Thank you to our participating schools:

Methodist Ladies College
Christ Church Grammar School
Scotch College
Bunbury Cathedral Grammar
North Cottesloe Primary
Penrhos College
Presbyterian Ladies College
Our Lady's Assumption School
St Pius X Catholic School
St Joseph's School, Waroona
Infant Jesus Soccer Club
Karratha Primary School
St Hilda's Anglican School
St Kieron Catholic Primary School
Lady of the Cape Primary School, Dunsborough
Chisholm Catholic College, Bedford

And thank you to Susan Pestana, the inspiration behind this project, for her infectious passion to recycle and make a difference

Photos and Articles



Please Contact us with any queries, photos or newsletter articles:

0434 977 128

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In September 2021 Christ Church Grammar School repurposed coffee bean hessian sacks, kindly donated by Leaf Bean Machine coffee suppliers, to pack uniforms, tying them with school socks and ties.