

# Fairtrade Cotton School Uniforms

## Fairtrade School Uniforms

### *Some Information To Get You Started...*

#### Polo shirts and sweat shirts embroidered or printed with school logos

Several of the stockists below offer an embroidery or printing service, that allow schools to support Fairtrade by choosing to make special uniform items from Fairtrade cotton; Polo shirts, sweat shirts, blazers or hoodies could be embroidered with school logos, or have specific school trip or event details printed onto them. Typically the price difference for polo shirts is only 15-20%, (£10 compared to £8, including embroidery and VAT). An extra £2 on one or two items only means a minimal increase in parent's overall uniform costs.

#### 100% Cotton or Cotton/Polyester Mixes

Cotton/polyester mixes can be Fairtrade certified, as long as the cotton content is 50% or more. Some schools, particularly primary schools, prefer 100% cotton garments as they may be considered more suitable for younger children's sensitive skin. Others choose poly/cotton for easier maintenance.

#### Designated Retailers & Existing Suppliers

Switching to Fairtrade does not mean disrupting relationships with the designated local shops that schools often use to stock their uniform items. Retailers gladly stock the garments schools choose from new suppliers, and often Fairtrade items can be available from an existing supplier. If not, schools can encourage their supplier to make the switch to Fairtrade, ensuring an ethical trading policy that guarantees decent wages to the people who make their garments.

#### Providing Parents with a 'Fairtrade option' -vs- Supporting Fairtrade as a School

Some schools or designated retailers stock two versions of polo shirts – introducing a Fairtrade alternative as well as an existing garment. While providing choice is a welcome step, it is nowhere near as effective in supporting Fairtrade as taking a collective decision to specify that a particular uniform item must be ethically sourced. Fully committing to Fairtrade means sales of several hundred garments every year and significantly reduces unit costs.

# Fairtrade Cotton School Uniforms

## Standard and Stock Items

'Standard' or 'stock' items can be supplied quickly from stock. Other colours and material mixes can be ordered but this usually requires a four month lead time and a minimum order level (for polo shirts around 500-600 garments). Most companies offer on-line ordering, and most can supply directly to schools as well as via designated retailers.

## Suppliers:

The following is a list of UK suppliers who stock Fairtrade school uniforms, or school-appropriate clothing, such as polo shirts and blazers. The clothing is either 100% Fairtrade cotton, or a cotton/polyester mix, containing at least 50% Fairtrade cotton content. The list is correct as of January 2015.

## **Cotton Roots:**

Cotton Roots is an established supplier of clothing which has an emphasis on quality garments alongside strong ethical and sustainable manufacture. They believe in their motto "Company clothing with moral fibre".

### What Do They stock?

- Polo shirts, in children, young adult and adult sizes, and in a variety of colours.
- Round-neck t-shirts, in children, young adult and adult sizes, and in a variety of colours.
- Sweatshirts, in children's sizes, and in a variety of colours.
- Hoodies, in young adult and adult sizes, and in a variety of colours.
- Aprons, suitable for cookery classes.

Cotton roots offer an embroidery or printing service on all of the above items, at an additional cost.

### Shop Here:

[https://www.cottonroots.co.uk/catalogue/121/fairtrade\\_and\\_organic\\_only](https://www.cottonroots.co.uk/catalogue/121/fairtrade_and_organic_only)

# Fairtrade Cotton School Uniforms

## **David Luke:**

As a leading school-wear supplier with over 30 years in the business, David Luke's aim is to lead the school uniform market towards a more sustainable future, through ethically sourced, fairly traded uniforms.

### What Do They Stock?

- Junior Fairtrade polo shirts. These are available in a variety of colours, and sizes from age 3-13.
- Junior Fairtrade sweatshirts. These are available in a variety of colours, and sizes from age 3-13.

### Shop Here:

sweatshirts: <http://www.ethicaluniform.com/product-category/sweatshirts/>

polo shirts: <http://www.ethicaluniform.com/product-category/poloshirts/>

## **Kool Skools:**

Koolskools is a dynamic ethical school clothing company. The Koolskool's vision is to establish a unique ethical manufacturing and supply chain that benefits everyone buying into it - producers, manufacturers and customers alike.

### What Do They Stock?

- Durable, double-stitched school-wear that is 50% Fairtrade cotton/polyester mix, making it easy to wash and iron.

### To Sign Up Your School, and Receive a Price List and More Information:

<http://www.koolskools.co.uk/school-fairtrade-signup.php>

## **Epona Clothing**

In 2005 Epona became one of the first companies to produce Fairtrade cotton clothing certified by the Fairtrade Foundation. Since then, all their clothing has been made using Fairtrade cotton grown in India using a sweatshop-free supply chain. Their clothing is made in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India.

## Fairtrade Cotton School Uniforms

### What Do They Stock?

- Hoodies, in young adult and adult sizes, and in a variety of colours
- T-Shirts, in young adult and adult sizes, and in a variety of colours
- Sweatshirts, in young adult and adult sizes, and in a variety of colours
- Zip-up tops and hoodies, in young adult and adult sizes, and in a variety of colours
- Sweatpants & Shorts, in young adult and adult sizes, and in a variety of colours
- Polo shirts, in young adult and adult sizes, and in a variety of colours.

### Shop Here:

<http://www.eponaclothing.com/index.php?/our-products/>