Social Scenario #2
Uniform or Unique?

'I need the children to have a choice, but I'm worried about the them being distracted.'

Read the social scenario below and as a group, decide what you think the best option would be. You have only **1 hour** to make your decision and share it with the class for debate!!

Read the scenario below and help Samantha decide.

Samantha is the principal of a middle school and has to make a decision regarding the dress code policy. Currently, the school has a strict dress code that prohibits students from wearing anything other than solid colour shirts and pants, with no visible logos or designs. The school has been receiving complaints from parents and students that the dress code is too restrictive and unfair.

Some argue that it doesn't allow students to express their individuality and creativity, while others believe that it creates a more professional and serious learning environment. Samantha has to decide whether to keep the current dress code policy or make changes to it. If she keeps the policy as is, it could lead to more complaints and potentially a loss of enrolments. If she changes the policy to allow for more flexibility, it could lead to some students wearing inappropriate or distracting clothing and potentially harm the learning environment.

What should Samantha do? How can she balance the needs and opinions of both parents, students, and the school's board?

Compromise is when we make changes to help everyone.

The Children
'I would like to decide how I dress for school. It should be my choice.'

The Parents
'I want my children to feel that they have the voice and choice to decide for themselves.'

The Board
'If the children can wear whatever they like, then this could affect our reputation!'

These questions may help you make your decision!

1. How do dress codes in schools vary across different regions or countries, and what are the reasons for these differences?
2. What are some alternative dress code policies that other schools have implemented, and what were the outcomes?
3. How do clothing choices impact self-expression and identity, and why is it important for students to have this outlet?
4. What is the history behind dress codes in schools, and how have they evolved over time?
5. What are some ways that schools can enforce a dress code policy without infringing on students' rights or causing unnecessary conflict?
6. What are some potential consequences of having a strict dress code policy, such as body shaming, bullying, or exclusion?
7. How do dress codes impact different gender identities and expressions, and what are some ways to make dress codes more inclusive?

key Vocabulary

choice	opinion
freedom	agency
unique	board
compromise	enrolment
rules	independent