

# Fashion for youngsters



For those who still remember school uniforms with white bows, here is some good news: from September, the city municipality is planning to reintroduce school uniforms for secondary school children from grade 1 to 6. This decision was actually welcomed by society. So pretty soon our young family members will be wearing uniforms.

I agree with many exhausted parents with 'what to wear and how to wear' situation, and teachers will have more time to concentrate on the teaching process rather than low waist denims and inappropriate T-shirts. Am I being too conservative here?

My 7 year-old goes to an International School in Tbilisi, and though uniforms are not worn there, I would love to see them to save time and frustration. In several Asian countries I lived and worked, and also in Great Britain, young school pupils have to wear mandatory standard uniforms and they are available for sale at the larger department stores too.

But what do Georgian children think of newest idea?

**Sopo, 6<sup>th</sup> grade:** I would hate it, because I think we should be free and wear what we like.

**Ani, 5<sup>th</sup> grade:** I am ok with that, as long as it is not too grey and boring or have too many buttons.

**Andro, 6<sup>th</sup> grade:** I don't care really; I am a boy (laughs).

**Keso, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:** My mom says it is good and I will get one, I want it to be red red.

In Taiwan, for example, two International and local schools I knew had a twice-a-week policy for wearing uniforms, plus comfortable name-brand footwear. Well, let's not start to compare everything to the West and East here, and instead see what will happen in Georgia. A list of top and well known designers gathered to take part in a competition to design the future uniforms, the results of which are not yet



Irina Tevzadze

finalized. My favorite Georgian designer Irina Tevzadze, who was studying abroad and recently returned to Georgia, also took part in the project. In her interview with *Woman Today* she said:

"It was very short notice, to think about school designs for only one month. I was lucky to have thought about it myself while in the US, and I had some drawings. It is a difficult project itself and requires deep knowledge in textiles, the modern lives of kids, and practicality. I took part in the announced tender in March. As a mother myself I approve of uniforms, of course, and the school they go to now does have a uniform. It's a private school; still I do not think that clothes for them should be conservative like we used to have back then. They were beautiful if you remember, but still a modern style needs to be maintained for today and they should be affordable too."

"I personally wouldn't want to see all the schools of Tbilisi looking like soldiers, but instead have their own style, design and color. This is very important because by playing colors according to certain areas, we would save finances for this project."

At the official fashion show, held at school 181 on April 12, children tried on the competitive costumes and the show went well. Tbilisi Mayor Gigi Ugulava said that it is very hard to choose from 29 original designs. One idea that came from this difficult decision would be to have different uniforms for schools in different regions of the city. Well, as we say in Georgia, you do not doubt one's taste and sure enough children are so difficult to please, like their parents and school staff.

Good luck to all and let's wait and see. For the moment it is planned as a trial action and schools will make the decision themselves. Hopefully there will be several winners.

