



Abbeyhill Primary School Parent Council Sustainability Hub

The Proposal

1. To expand the existing Uniform Exchange to accept and share children's clothing of all types and across all age ranges (renamed the Kids' Clothing Exchange).
2. To consult with the Parent Forum on their priorities for possible further expansion into a Sustainability Hub, and explore logistics and routes of funding to meet these priorities.

Background and Wider Context

For several years, we've been operating a popular Uniform Exchange, which opens monthly and is well used by families of Abbeyhill. It is well stocked and, earlier this term, we were even able to respond to a request for school uniform to support Ukrainian refugee children attending Victoria Primary.

That said, it would be easier to manage if we had better storage and presentation facilities. We're currently operating out of some boxes with a few wobbly rails and a big box of adult-sized hangers. The storage room is cluttered and it is difficult for staff and volunteers to move around.

In addition, we face two big challenges right now; the climate emergency and the cost of living crisis. Sharing resources reduces waste, saves money and resources, and helps us take action against both problems. It helps to strengthen a sense of community, builds resilience, and models a great example for our kids.

The Project Proposal

Creating a Sustainability Hub in school would help us to share resources and reduce waste. It would enable families to pass on items they no longer need, rather than throwing them away, and to source things they do need much more affordably than if they had to buy them new.

This could be as big a project as we have the time and resources to manage. Examples of what we could decide to do include

- share a wider range of children's clothing and shoes
- cater for adult clothing as well (especially maternity clothing!)
- share a wider range of things - toys, books, household goods, etc
- add on a community bulk buy scheme, for basics like flours, cereals, pulses, or any other foods/products the community requests
- open it up to people in the local area, not just the families and staff of the school but to our wider community
- expand the philosophy (of being a climate-positive school) into other areas of decision-making

It would be possible to bid for funding for every aspect of an expanded Hub (including fitting out the store room, staffing, etc), for example from

- [The National Lottery Community Fund \(Scotland\) - Cost-of-Living Support Scotland](#)

- [The University of Edinburgh's Community Grants Scheme](#)
- [Matthew Good Foundation's Grants for Good](#)
- and several more.

Project Needs

To create a Kids' Clothing Exchange we would need to

- fit out the old bike shed with proper shelving to hold the expanded stock in an organised manner
- buy more boxes to protect items in storage
- acquire more movable rails and/or trollies to make it quick and easy to display clothing for people to browse.

We would also need volunteers to

- sort through donations
- get them all clean, mended, and ready to wear
- staff the stall on the day (opening at least once a month).

As explained in the Background section, it would help the existing Uniform Exchange to do these updates, even if we decided not to expand the offer to non-uniform clothing.

Proposed Budget to open a Kids' Clothing Exchange approximately £900

The preferred route of funding would be approaching a local branch of IKEA or similar to see if they would donate products/staff to do the fit out for us. I think we would stand a good chance.

If we had to pay for it all:

Description	Unit Cost	Total
4 bays of flexible wooden shelving, full height (Ivar by IKEA)		£406
20x 35ltr Really Useful Boxes (from Hobbycraft, who sometimes do a discount for bulk purchasing, so it might be less than this) 2 boxes per year group = 14 boxes, plus 6 for children outside P1-7 (ie nursery/babies/older siblings). They fit the IVAR shelving units.	£13.50	£270
80x children's clothes hangers (from The Range)	£1.49 for 8	£14.90
2 clothes racks (Rigga by IKEA)	£19	£38
Delivery from IKEA to school		£40
Telescopic ladder, so we can reach the top shelves (from Wicks, delivery is free)	£100	£100
Total		868.90

Assumptions

- We can build the IVAR units and secure them to the walls ourselves.
- We can drive to Hobbycraft to ask for the discount (only given in person, at staff discretion).
- 4 bays of storage and 20 boxes would be enough to start us off. We could then see if we need/want to expand from that.
- All purchases are made soon, before prices go up.