

Expressing Through Uniform with Oska

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Uniforms can be restrictive and even oppressive at times. Here are some tips and ideas for you to personalise your look while at school!



You can style longer hair with different braids, or wear hair accessories like decorative slides, bows, ties with beads and ornaments on them, and ribbons.

In the winter, beanies and other warm hats can be decorated with patches, embroidery, badges and pins.

Head scarfs may be limited to school colours, so using brooches can be a fun way of fastening your scarf while still getting to accessorise.

A half-windsor knot is standard, but you can try out a variety of different styles for your tie, and make it more unique by adding pins or some embroidery. In the winter, you'll have a variety of scarf styles from infinity, wooly, pashmina and flannel to dress up with.

Shirts can be worn with a variety of tuck styles for a more individual look, and wearing a long-sleeve under shirt under a short-sleeve school shirt can make you feel more comfortable in it. Even a few replaced buttons can break up the monotony of a school shirt.

Blazers can be decorated with badges or pins, and some coloured stitching along hems can be easily missed by teachers, and just as easily excused if it's pointed out.



Belts may be expected to match your trousers, but you can look at belt buckles that can be hidden under your shirt, as well as hanging keychains from your belt loops. You can also use security chains and straps to attach to your wallet/keys to your belt loops, or even carry a cheap pocket watch.

Some schools may be strict about skirt length, but if you can get away with it you can roll the waistband to adjust the length, or even wear them with an asymmetric angle. Cycling shorts underneath can keep you protected and add a dimension of layers to your uniform.

Leg warmers, knee wraps and long socks under your skirt can give off cute, sporty or retro vibes.

Socks and shoes are usually restricted, but if you're wearing trousers you can get away with bright and fun novelty socks. Shoe laces can be swapped out for colourful ones, or even just ones with school-colour appropriate patterns. Clips, pins, and beads can all be attached to shoe laces to give them some extra accessorization.

Your bag will be where you get the most freedom. To protect your shoulders, use fabric or seat belt protectors over the straps. Ita Bags are popular for protecting all your pins and accessories, but even regular school bags can be decorated with patches and badges. Even jewellery can be attached to parts on the bag for decoration.



For sourcing accessories, I recommend brands like Primark and Flying Tiger, but also indie artists like [Tintreas](#), [Lethe Charms](#) and [DeadVultureCY](#). You can also find badges that show off your favourite things from bands to charities you love! My best advice for really unique things is always keep an eye out in charity shops.

Remember to be aware of what you can and can't get away with. It's best to avoid unwanted attention or confiscation of your belongings, so only pick from this guide what suits you best!