



# Uniform Store Plymouth

A pop-up shop: a free service kitting out families for returning to school in September.

- Collect:** We are receiving donations of good quality second hand uniform as well as partnering with local businesses to source new.
- Give:** Our USP shop will be open from mid August to offer families new and 2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniform, as well as a back to school backpack and stationery set.
- Hope:** It has never been easy for parents to kit their children out for a new term at school, and post Covid 19 lockdown, for many it is harder than ever. We want to reach out to support these families and give them hope – let them know that someone is for them and show it in a practical way.
- You:** We are glad of donations, thank you. What we need even more is for the word to get out to vulnerable families in your community. If there is a contact we can provide information to who will forward it to the necessary people that would be great!

## The stats:

According to 2019 Plymouth City Council statistics, 10,000 Plymouth children live in poverty, and the vast majority (76.9 per cent) are living in workless households. The proportion of children in poverty living in working households is rising and there are still some suggestions that data underestimates the volume of 'in work' poverty. Post Covid 19 lockdown who knows what the real figure is now.

We have researched the opinions of schools, children's services and poverty relief organisations. Barnardo's, Primary schools, secondary schools, Transforming Plymouth Together, Plymouth Foodbank – the response was unanimous.

All reported a need for helping families with uniform. All said that a shop environment would remove the stigma of receiving help and make it accessible to clients. All expressed a current concern over families disconnected from usual support networks due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

One individual was responsible for administering an annual grant of £1000 to supply new school uniform to children and this year had not managed to distribute the grant because she was unable to connect with the families in need in the usual way.

## **Who are we?**

We are a partnership of Plymouth churches who have worked with local support agencies for many years under the guise of The Children's Storehouse and The Hope Initiative.

[www.plymouthvineyard.org.uk](http://www.plymouthvineyard.org.uk)

[www.redeemerplymouth.uk](http://www.redeemerplymouth.uk)