

RPRY Wardrobe FAQ

updated June 11, 2018

GENERAL

So, RPRY now has a uniform?

What the administration learned in our research is that this is not a binary issue: either a school has a uniform or it does not. Rather, there is a continuum. Some policies are more of a uniform, and some less. Some schools refer to their policies as a “uniformed dress code” because they are not quite full uniforms. The RPRY Wardrobe, as compared with the old policy, is a shift toward the “uniform” side of the spectrum.

What are the benefits of the new policy?

More and more schools, Jewish and non-Jewish, have been adopting uniform-like policies because they:

- 1) generate positive school spirit, pride and sense of community;
- 2) have a positive effect on student behavior;
- 3) reduce competition between students;
- 4) make mornings easier for some students and parents; and
- 5) create a more focused and disciplined academic environment.

Additionally, as a school guided by Torah principles, the RPRY Wardrobe also reflects the standards of *tzniut*, modesty, to which we want all of our students to adhere. *Tzniut* is about much more than how we dress; it reflects how an individual should view him or herself with both dignity and humility. At the same time, how a person dresses is one element of how *tzniut* is expressed. The new Wardrobe will enable RPRY to better realize the *halachic* (Jewish law) and *hashkafic* (Jewish philosophy) spirit of this value.

Where will I be able to order RPRY Wardrobe clothing?

Clothing will be ordered through online stores being set up for RPRY by Lands’ End and French Toast. All short-sleeve shirts for boys and girls will have the school’s logo on them, and must be ordered through these stores. Long sleeve and three-quarter sleeve polos in specific colors may be purchased anywhere. Girls’ skirts must be ordered through the online stores, with the exception of maxi skirts and midi skirts in specific colors, which may be purchased anywhere. Boys’ pants may be ordered through these stores or purchased elsewhere. More details are available in the Wardrobe Brochure.

How will enforcement of the new policy be handled?

If a child comes to school not dressed according to the Wardrobe, the parents will be called to come pick him or her up and to bring him or her back in the proper attire. If they cannot come to the school, then the child will be provided with proper attire and the parents will be billed for the cost.

The administration is not under the illusion that the new policy will solve all compliance challenges. However, we do believe that it will significantly alleviate the issue of noncompliance and entail less negativity around enforcement. Our research into other schools' policies and experiences has supported this.

SPECIFICS

When will this new policy apply?

The new RPRY Wardrobe will go into effect at the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year.

What grades are included in the new policy?

Students in grades 1-8 are required to come to school in the RPRY Wardrobe. The policy is slightly different for lower school students in grades 1 to 4 as compared to middle school students in grades 5 to 8.

Why do we need to have a logo on the shirt?

Having a logo contributes to school pride. By wearing shirts that have the RPRY logo on them each day, students will feel connected to the yeshiva and to each other. It also helps the administration and faculty to quickly confirm that students are wearing a Wardrobe shirt.

What logo will we be using?

We plan to design a new logo for RPRY. It will be used for the Wardrobe, but also for the website and all other branding needs. Despite working with a couple of different graphic designers in February-April 2018, we have not been satisfied with the results. This is not something we want to rush or compromise on, and so for the first year of the Wardrobe we are going to move forward with the school's existing logo. We will be using just the "luchot with two children" part of the logo without any lettering.

My child is not the average size. Will there be the appropriate sizes for him/her?

The items will be offered in a variety of styles and sizes (husky, slim), though not every item is available in every size. Additionally, long sleeve and three-quarter sleeve polo shirts, boys' pants and girls' maxi and midi skirts can be bought elsewhere.

My child has sensory issues. Will this new policy be a problem for him/her?

The policy is not so restrictive, like a full uniform would be, and provides many options. The administration was mindful of things like waistbands and tags. Polo shirts come in different textures and materials. We believe that there will be options appropriate for every child.

ECONOMICS

How will I be able to afford this for all of my children?

In developing the new policy, great effort was made to balance different considerations, cost being one of them. That is why there are many items in our Wardrobe that can be bought anywhere.

Also, with cost in mind, the administration chose to use two different vendors. Lands' End is a bit more expensive, but the clothing is quite durable and they have an excellent return policy. French Toast is more affordable, but the return policy is not as generous. Both vendors also have great clearance sales during various times of the year.

Also, although the initial cost may be higher, families may not need to purchase clothing as often because of the quality of the clothing, because of the Lands' End return policy, and because school clothing will not need to keep up with fashion trends. Additionally, in our research with other schools we found that, at least for some families, children needed fewer changes of clothing with a policy such as this.

Additionally, we will be establishing a "g'mach" at the end of the first year to which families can donate Wardrobe clothing that will then be available for families in need. For the first year, families who truly cannot afford the Wardrobe should please speak with Rabbi Loew and arrangements will be made.

I am an incoming eighth grade parent. How is it fair to have to purchase clothes for my child that he/she will only wear for a year? What do I do with all of the clothes at the end of the year?

Many eighth graders next year will have younger siblings to whom they can hand down their RPRY attire after they graduate. But we know that not all do, and the administration did discuss

the possibility of exempting the eighth grade. We decided against that because we determined that it would undermine the entire initiative.

We are also planning a buy-back program for the first 8th grade class at the end of the year. Parents will be able to sell logoed shirts and vendor skirts back to the yeshiva for a percentage of the original purchase price. Parents also may want to consider donating to the g'mach.

Also keep in mind that, besides the shirts with logos, all other clothing will be wearable in high school. (And it would be OK to show your RPRY pride by wearing the logoed shirts in high school as well!)

What are the return policies of the two vendors?

Lands' End uniform returns are the same as their regular returns:

"Guaranteed. Period.® If you're not satisfied with any item, simply return it to us at any time for an exchange or refund of its purchase price.

When we say everything is Guaranteed. Period.® we mean it. Even after an item is personalized with monogramming or hemming."

You can ship items back to Lands' End, or return it in a Sears store.

The French Toast return policy on their website is:

"Sorry, we cannot accept returns on any embroidered or screen printed items, special order items or on items damaged through normal wear and tear. If your merchandise is damaged or defective upon arrival, please notify us within twenty-four (24) hours so that we may replace the damaged merchandise. Returns must be submitted within forty-five (45) days of purchase."

Items can be shipped back to French Toast.

Is the school making money off of this? Is that a motivation behind the new Wardrobe?

The school does receive a small percentage back from the vendors. We will be using that money to: 1) purchase uniforms for families who cannot afford them, 2) have extras available for enforcement, and 3) have samples so that families can check out in advance what sizes to order for their children. The fundraiser is not a motivation for the switch to this policy.