

CORNWALL LIVE

Gender Switch To Make A Point

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- 1 When the weather changes in the summer for the better, the upwards step in heat can be difficult - for many of us - to get used to. And so it has been this last week. Among those who have really struggled in the heat have been boys at a school in Cornwall.
- 2 Their school is very strict when it comes to wearing school uniforms and would not allow boys to wear shorts, instead of long trousers. Given that the school policy allows girls to wear skirts - rather than long trousers - the boys had an idea.
- 3 A group of boys at [Poltair School](#) in St Austell - supported by their mums - donned skirts specially bought to make a point. And that point was only made after requests were lodged with the school to relax the strict policy on dress code. Despite other schools in the area being more accommodating about uniforms, there was no change in that dress code on the wearing of long trousers by the boys. As a nod to the heat however, the school's Facebook page is said to indicate, students are now permitted to remove their blazers in this hot weather. That's nice.
- 4 We have to say well done to those boys - and their mums - for making the point for common sense. We have to wonder why it is though, that some schools appear to have a need to apply draconian principles to how they treat our young people in their charge. We could not help but think of the Stanford Prison Experiment of the 1970's when reading this story from Cornwall.
- 5 Per Wikipedia - The [Stanford prison experiment](#) was a social psychology experiment influenced by the Milgram experiment that attempted to investigate the psychological effects of perceived power, focusing on the struggle between prisoners and prison officers. It was conducted at Stanford University on the days of August 14-20, 1971, by a research group of college students led by psychology professor Philip Zimbardo.
Do watch the film trailer which demonstrates how people are overtaken with their gifted new power to control.
- 6 On a similar theme, we also found a story concerning a boy and his David Beckham haircut. He was suspended from [Nottingham Academy](#) for looking so very smart. Can you see a problem with his haircut - as we could not?
- 7 Why do those in authority feel the need to treat their charges in ways which are unfair and unnecessary? Philip Zimbardo really did know something when he instigated the experiment. In fact and worryingly, we have all seen this behaviour being rolled out in different scenarios during this last 16mths. Authority groups - like the police and some employers - seem to go beyond

what is required or necessary. They go further and invent their own policies and conditions, almost taking delight in the process of inflicting their own unjustified power on the rest of us. They seem to do so out of some psychological need to exercise control - when in fact there is no overriding need. Recognising this behaviour trait marks the first step to irradicating it. The boys in St Austell have done their bit towards highlighting this behaviour.

8 Earlier this week, we wrote an article about the increase in home schooling - titled "[Home Schooling Jumps 75%](#)". One of the reasons why an increasing number of parents are turning to this type of education method for their children, is the inflexibility of schools to accommodate individual needs. This story today about boys wearing skirts just serves to underline that inflexibility.

9 We say fair play to those boys and thank you for making the point you have.

Source: Tetbury Connect: [Magazine](#)

[LINK](#): School lads wear skirts to school to protest 'outdated' uniform policy

[LINK](#): Boy sent home for sporting a David Beckham haircut

[LINK](#): Stanford prison Experiment

[LINK](#): Home Schooling Jumps 75%



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