

Labelling Student Belongings to Minimise Lost Property

One of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce lost property is to ensure that all student belongings are clearly labelled. Every year, schools collect a significant number of unnamed garments and personal items that cannot be returned to their owners.

By taking a few minutes to label items correctly, parents can help ensure that misplaced belongings are quickly identified and returned to students.

What Should Be Labelled?

We recommend clearly labelling all items that students take to school, including:

- School blazers
- Jumpers and cardigans
- Polo shirts and shirts
- PE kits and sportswear
- School hats and caps
- Water bottles
- Lunch boxes
- School bags and backpacks
- Pencil cases
- Swimming kits and towels
- Jackets and outerwear
- Musical instrument cases
- Personal technology devices (where permitted)

Best Practice for Uniform Labelling

For school uniform garments, we recommend:

- Labelling every item, even if multiple garments are the same size.
- Using durable name labels designed for schoolwear.
- Positioning labels inside the garment where they are easy to locate.
- Ensuring names remain legible after repeated washing.
- Including both first name and surname where possible.
- Checking labels periodically throughout the year to ensure they remain attached and readable.

Choosing the Right Labels

There are several effective labelling options available:

Iron-On Labels

- Long-lasting and secure.
- Suitable for most garments.
- Resistant to repeated washing.

Stick-On Clothing Labels

- Quick and easy to apply.
- No sewing or ironing required.
- Ideal for busy parents.

Sew-In Labels

- Extremely durable.
- Particularly suitable for blazers, knitwear, and outerwear.

Permanent Laundry Markers

- Useful for quick identification.
- Best used on care labels or designated name tags.

Tips for Students

Students can also play an important role in reducing lost property:

- Check changing rooms before leaving PE lessons.
- Ensure all belongings are collected before leaving classrooms.
- Store uniform items in designated bags where possible.
- Check name labels periodically to ensure they remain visible.

At the Start of Each School Year

We recommend that parents:

- Label all new uniform items before the first day of term.
- Re-label any items where labels have faded or become detached.
- Update labels if garments are passed down between siblings.
- Check that school bags, lunch boxes, and water bottles are clearly marked.

Why Labelling Matters

Clear labelling helps:

- Reduce lost property.
- Speed up the return of misplaced items.
- Reduce replacement costs for families.
- Support school staff in identifying ownership.
- Minimise unnecessary waste and duplicate purchases.

A few moments spent labelling belongings at the start of the school year can save significant time, cost, and inconvenience later on.

Trutex Recommendation: Label everything, check labels regularly, and encourage students to take responsibility for their belongings to help ensure a smooth and successful school year.