

Japanese schools change strict black rules

Vocabulary Match

strict ●

detailed ●

relaxing ●

confident ●

trust ●

praised ●

● strong

● believe in

● approved

● sure

● specific

● loosening

Article

Junior high and high schools in Japan are changing old and strict "black rules" by listening to students' opinions. These rules often included detailed controls on clothing and hairstyles. Some teachers worried that relaxing the rules would cause problems, but many schools have seen positive results. Students now feel more confident and trust teachers more.

At Yawata Junior High in Nagoya, students helped decide rules and plan activities. Once, the student council president even attended a ceremony in gym clothes by mistake, but the teacher praised it as "part of learning." Parents welcomed the changes, and some students who had skipped school started attending again.

Quiz

1. What are Japanese schools changing?
2. What did the old rules control?
3. How do students feel after the changes?
4. What did the student council president at Yawata Junior High do?

Conversation

A: Did you hear about the new rules at school?

B: Yeah! I can finally wear my favorite hairstyle.

A: I know, right? It feels so much better now.

B: And did you see the president in gym clothes at the ceremony?

A: That was funny! But the teacher said it was part of learning.

B: I think these changes are really helping everyone feel better.

Discussion

1. What do you think about school rules on clothing?
2. What funny mistake have you made at school?
3. Why do you think some students skip school?
4. What school rules would you change?