

# **UNIFORM POLICY GUIDELINES**

Our development of a uniform policy is driven by a desire to create and promote an environment of learning where dress is not a distraction to the educational process. The motivation for the policy has grown out of the following principles:

1. Our goal is to honor God in all we do, acknowledging Him in our choices.
2. All human actions, including clothing, reveal and communicate the disposition of the heart at some level. It is our desire to address these heart issues in one uniform policy rather than seeking to anticipate and curb the numerous issues that surface throughout the year with a looser dress code.
3. Inherent in the uniform policy is a desire to create an environment where undue attention is not drawn to specific students. The neat appearance created by a uniform enhances a ready-to-learn atmosphere.
4. Uniforms help foster a cohesive presentation of the students in our school. When our students wear uniforms, it communicates, aesthetically, that they are part of the same team, working towards the same goals. The student is part of a group identity that strives for excellence.
5. The uniform code can save parents money. The uniform code de-emphasizes the social impact of dress, helping to focus students on character and academic issues.
6. The uniform code addresses security. On field trips, students in uniform aid the teachers in keeping track of everyone. On the playground or in school, teachers and staff can easily distinguish between students and outsiders.

Students are required to wear their uniforms while on campus during school hours, unless otherwise specified by the administration. The administration is responsible for interpreting and enforcing the policy, with the support of parents, faculty, and staff.

It is the desire of Alpha Omega to exemplify truth, beauty, and goodness.

All students' appearances should be neat, clean, and non-distracting. This includes wearing garments that are properly sized for the wearer.

### **Approved Uniform Items:**

**Pants:** AOA's approved uniform twill khaki pants are available from [Flynn O'Hara](#) store at their Houston location, on their website, or [Lands' End School Uniform](#) website, referencing AOA's school code **900048463**. Pants must be properly sized for the wearer and contain NO logos. Navy pants may be worn by 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Shorts:** AOA's approved uniform twill khaki shorts are available from [Flynn O'Hara](#) store at their Houston location or on their website, or [Lands' End School Uniform](#) website referencing AOA's school code **900048463**. Shorts must be properly sized for the wearer and contain NO logos. **Shorts must reach 2 inches above the knee of the wearer.** Navy shorts may be worn by 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Skirts/Skorts:** AOA's approved skirts/skorts are available only from [Flynn O'Hara](#). They can be purchased in store at their Houston location or via their website. Skirts/Skorts may be AOA plaid (available only from [Flynn O'Hara](#)), khaki, or navy. **Skirts/Skorts must reach 2 inches above the knee of the wearer.** Navy skirts may be worn by 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Jumpers:** AOA's approved skirts/skorts are available only from [Flynn O'Hara](#). They can be purchased in store at their Houston location or via their website. Approved jumpers are AOA plaid only. **Jumpers must reach 2 inches above the knee of the wearer.** Jumpers are for students Pre-K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade only.

**Shirts:** Approved uniform shirts are the following: Uniform color (navy, white or hunter green) polo shirts (short or long-sleeved); uniform color turtleneck or mock turtleneck shirts; chambray button-down shirts (short or long-sleeved); and white dress shirts (short or long-sleeved). The style and color must match those in the Flynn O'Hara store at their Houston location or on their website or [Lands' End School Uniform](#) website referencing AOA's school code **900048463**.

All shirts must be without a logo, except for the [Land's End School Uniform](#) or [Flynn O'Hara](#) Alpha Omega Academy approved logo.

Polo shirts, turtleneck shirts, mock turtleneck shirts, button-down shirts, and dress shirts must be tucked in at all times.

**Outerwear:** (This refers to what is worn in the building throughout the **school** day.) The only approved outerwear to be worn in the school building during school hours is a navy crewneck with the Alpha Omega Academy logo on the front. Fridays ONLY, students are permitted to wear any solid navy hoodie or sweatshirt, either with an AOA logo or no logo at all.

**Coats:** Coats are defined as outerwear with long sleeves and a zip-up or button-up front. Coats may be of any color or style. Inappropriate slogans or logos will not be allowed (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, violent graphics, profanity, skull and crossbones, etc.). This refers to outside jackets that are removed while inside the building.

**Belts:** A belt should be worn with pants and shorts. Belts may be any solid uniform color (navy, white or hunter green), black, or brown.

**Socks:** Socks must be worn with shoes. ~~Clearly visible~~ Socks (i.e. socks that show above the ankle) must be navy, white, hunter green, or black and must be the same color.

**Shoes:** Closed-toed shoes or boots must be worn. Mud and/or rain boots **or Crocs** are not permitted.

### **Other Dress Code Items:**

**Undergarments** - appropriate undergarments must be worn at all times. Undergarments may not be visible at any time, except for undershirts which must be either a uniform color (navy, white or hunter green) or grey. It is recommended that girls wear shorts or spandex under skirts. When ladies wear light colored uniform shirts (i.e. white shirts), undergarments and camisoles/tank tops must be of a neutral color.

**Leggings/knee high socks** – Solid, ankle length leggings and knee high socks in either a uniform color (navy, white, or hunter green), black or neutral may be worn with skirts. Socks must be the same color.

**Ties** – Ties may be worn with dress shirts.

**Hats** – Hats may be worn outside the school buildings before and after school.

**Hair** - Hair must be kept clean and neat, must not hang in the eyes, and must not be a distraction. Girls' hair must be a natural color; boys may not color or bleach their hair in any manner. Boys must be clean-shaven. Sideburns must not extend below the earlobe. No hair adornments permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, tinsel, charms, cat or other animal headbands, etc. Bows should follow uniform colors – navy, white, hunter green, or plaid – and should not be a cause for distraction based on shape or size. No other bows permitted.

**Piercings and Tattoos** – No body piercing (except for girls' ears) or visible tattoos are permissible.

**P.E. Uniforms** – Students in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are required to wear a P.E. uniform while in P.E. class. The approved P.E. uniforms are sold by [Flynn O'Hara](#) only and are available for purchase at their Houston store or online. Students participating in athletics are required to wear clothes prescribed by the coach of the sport in which they participate.

**AOA Spirit Shirts, Sweatshirts, etc., when being designed and made, must be approved by AOA's Development Director or Head of School.**

## **Special Dress Days**

### **AOA Spirit Jean Days:**

**Seniors:** Every Friday, Seniors may wear jeans and an AOA uniform shirt, another AOA shirt, or school colors to school. Students are not allowed to wear shorts, capris or cargo pants on this day unless they choose to wear their approved uniform shorts or skirts.

**School-wide Spirit Jean Day:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, jeans and an AOA uniform shirt, another AOA shirt, or school colors may be worn to show school spirit. Students are not allowed to wear shorts, capris, or cargo pants on this day unless they choose to wear their approved uniform bottoms. **No skinny jeans** or tight-fitting jeans are allowed. Jeans may not have holes or faux holes. Jeans may not sag. No tight-fitting shirts or t-shirts are allowed. Violation of this will result in the loss of the privilege for Spirit Jean Day. For Seniors, the first offense will result in one warning. Any additional violations will result in the loss of the privilege for the remainder of the school year.

**Sports Game Day** – On game days, team members may wear the approved game day shirt with uniform pants or a skirt. The team must wear the same gameday uniform or the daily school uniform.

**Presentation Day** – For presentation days, high school students may dress in Professional Attire, including footwear. The length of skirts (including slits in skirts) may be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee of the wearer, and no tight or low-cut tops may be worn. In the event that a student wears inappropriate clothing on Presentation Day, they must wear a regular school uniform for the next Presentation Day. In the event that the student wears inappropriate attire a second time, the privilege of wearing Presentation Day clothes will be forfeited by that student for the remainder of the school year.

### **The following guidelines apply for Free Dress Days:**

- All clothing, including pants, jeans, capris, and shorts, shall not have holes of any kind;

- Closed-toed shoes must be worn.
- Ladies will not wear tops that have spaghetti straps, are low cut, show a bare midriff, or are tight;
- Gentlemen will not wear pants that sag or shirts that are tight. A belt will be required if pants cannot be kept up properly.
- Students will not wear "Skinny jeans" or other tight-fitting pants;
- No tank tops or camisoles, without an over-shirt, shall be worn;
- Neither running shorts nor short shorts shall be worn. Shorts must not be more than 2 inches above the knee of the wearer;
- T-shirts with inappropriate logos or slogans will not be allowed (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, violent graphics, profanity, skull and crossbones, etc.).

*Formal Events:* All students are to dress appropriately and modestly for formal events such as Protocol. Appropriately means **dressy dresses for the ladies and dress shirts, ties, and dress pants, suit or tux for the gentlemen**. Additionally, wearing clothing that properly fits your body type is essential. **"Modesty isn't about covering our bodies because they are bad, modesty isn't hiding ourselves...it's about revealing your dignity." – Jessica Ray**  
**Indecent dressing and exposure of your body reduce your value and respect.**

These standards apply to guests of Alpha Omega students as well.

- No dresses with cuts below the bust line.
- The bust continues around your sides directly under your armpit. With arms down at your side, if flesh touches flesh below the bust line, the dress is inappropriate.
- No excessive cleavage.
- Dresses may be backless as long as they are NOT cut below the navel.
- Midriffs will not be exposed. This includes both front and side. With arms down at your side, if flesh touches flesh below the bust line, the dress is inappropriate. No see-through material.
- Dresses may not have a slit that exceeds mid-thigh.
- No short dresses with overlays and bi-levels must hit knees.
- **No cover-ups** (coats, shawls, sweaters) will be allowed over dresses that do not meet the dress code.
- **Fabric inserts must be sewn**, not pinned, on the dress; if without the inserts, the dress does not meet dress code.
- **We will be reasonable in our interpretation of these guidelines; please be reasonable in the dresses you choose. What may work for one may not work for others.**
- **This dress code does not limit your ability to show your style and uniqueness.**

**Modesty includes avoiding clothing that is sexually enticing, as well as clothing that draws undue attention to oneself.** If a student is not sure if their attire meets the criteria, and to avoid embarrassment later, students are welcome to have their attire privately reviewed and approved in advance by a committee of school personnel of their gender.

**Uniform Demerits:**

For secondary students, uniform demerits will be given for infractions of the uniform code. Five (5) uniform demerits will be an office referral.

Grammar students will not receive uniform demerits, but parents will be contacted for infractions. This will allow the parents to assist the child in the understanding of the uniform policy. It is expected that the parents will assist in rectifying the dress code violations, This may include purchasing appropriate uniform items for their student. If parents have questions, please consult the headmaster or classroom teacher.

\*\* Dress Code Guidelines reviewed by committee June, 2025

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Tops:**

1. My child would prefer to just wear their school-appropriate sweatshirt or hoodie without a shirt underneath. Is that ok? *No, it isn't. A polo-style uniform shirt must be worn at all times.*

**Bottoms:**

What kinds of leggings are acceptable? *Stockings, tights, and nylons are fine. Leggings under skirts must be solid, with no designs or texture, in a uniform color (white, navy, hunter green) or black. Leggings must be ankle-length.*

My daughter has some nylons with black cats woven into them. Are these OK? *No, they are not. Socks, stockings, tights, nylons, and leggings must be conservative, plain, and solid colored. Stripes, diamonds, and cats, even of the same color, are not allowed.*

**Accessories & Miscellaneous:**

How do I know how tight is too tight for my daughter's blouses, sweaters, and pants? *If it looks like she has been poured into them, then they are too tight. It is the duty of the girls, as Christian sisters, to dress modestly wherever they go. If the shirt is pulled tight against her front or back, it's too tight.*

How long may my son's hair be and still be acceptable at school? *All hair must be kept neat and clean. If a young man's hair is long, it should not hang down in his face or be a distraction. Hair must be a natural color.*

What kind of jewelry is appropriate for my daughter? ***Small earrings on the lobe are fine.***

My child says that dark no-show or low-cut socks are ok. Is that true? ***Yes, it is. As long as the socks are plain and the same color.***

My son likes to wear orange t-shirts under his uniform shirt. Is that OK? ***T-shirts and camisoles must be white and hidden.***

My child likes to wear “croc” type shoes or rainboots to school. Are these acceptable? ***No, they aren’t, but students may wear rainboots to school and then change into appropriate shoes for class when raining.***

My student runs cold. Can she wear a thermal layer under her long-sleeved blouse or polo-style shirt? ***Certainly, as long as it is the same color as her blouse and is not visible.***

Does my son need to be cleanly shaved every day? ***Yes, he does.***

My daughter has polo-style shirts that have ruffles on the collar and other ones that have buttons on the sleeve. Are these acceptable? ***No, they aren’t. Shirts should be free from all “decorative” things. Collars, sleeves, buttons, etc., should be simple.***