



CHARTERHOUSE
ALMATY

STUDENT UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY

1. Policy Statement

At Charterhouse Almaty, uniform is an important expression of belonging. It connects students to our prestigious parent school in the United Kingdom and helps establish the tone of a school shaped by purpose, courtesy, tradition and high expectations.

Uniform is not merely a matter of what students wear. It is part of the daily discipline of school life. It reminds students that they are members of a community in which standards matter, details matter, and the way we present ourselves reflects respect for others as well as pride in ourselves.

All students are expected to arrive at school smartly presented, properly equipped and ready for the day ahead. Parents are expected to support the school in maintaining these standards.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- promote a strong sense of belonging and pride in Charterhouse Almaty;
- support the school's identity as a premium British independent school in Kazakhstan;
- ensure that all students are presented smartly, modestly and appropriately;
- establish clear, consistent expectations for uniform, appearance and equipment;
- help students develop habits of personal responsibility, care and attention to detail;
- reduce unnecessary distraction, comparison or competition over clothing and appearance;
- ensure that students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities, including PE, sport, practical lessons, swimming and outdoor learning;
- support families by making expectations clear, practical and consistent.

This policy reflects the Charterhouse Values of kindness, responsibility, moral courage, perseverance and open-mindedness. Students should understand that wearing uniform well is not about severity or fussiness, but about courtesy, self-respect, community and pride.

3. Practice and Procedures

3.1 The Charterhouse Standard

All students must wear the correct Charterhouse Almaty uniform during the formal school day. This includes:

- registration;
- lessons;
- assemblies;
- formal breakfasts and lunches;
- school photographs;
- guest speaker events;
- Founders' Day and other formal ceremonies;

- school visits, unless otherwise instructed;
- parent-facing events where students are representing the school.

Uniform must be worn properly and with care. Shirts should be tucked in where required, ties should be worn correctly where they form part of the uniform, and blazers, jumpers and other items should be worn in accordance with this policy.

Uniform items must not be altered in length, cut, shape or appearance from the specifications provided by the school. This includes skirts, trousers, blazers, shirts, jumpers and sports kit.

Students may wear coats over their blazers or formal uniform, but not instead of them. While coats do not form part of the formal school uniform, they should be plain, dark and suitable for the Almaty climate, preferably navy or black.

3.2 Daily Presentation

Students should arrive at school:

- wearing the correct uniform;
- with clean and polishable black school shoes;
- with hair neat, tidy and suitable for school;
- with all clothing clean, named and in good repair;
- with the correct books, stationery and equipment;
- with sports or swimming kit where required;
- without unnecessary valuables or unsuitable personal items.

The school may ask students or parents to correct uniform or appearance where standards are not met. Repeated or significant concerns will be followed up by the relevant Class Teacher, House Tutor, Deputy Head or Head of School.

3.3 General Requirement for Uniform

The following expectations apply:

- Blazers should be worn by Prep pupils and Senior School students.
- Shirts should be clean, pressed and properly fastened.
- Ties should be worn by Prep pupils and Senior School students where required, tied neatly and at an appropriate length.
- Only the official Charterhouse Almaty jumper should be worn in colder weather.
- Trousers, skirts and dresses should be the approved school design.
- Skirts and dresses should not be shortened or altered.
- Socks and tights should be in approved school colours.
- School badges, House items and formal accessories should be worn as instructed.

3.4 Shoes

Formal school shoes should be:

- black;
- formal;
- clean;
- polishable;
- safe for stairs and daily school movement.

The following are not acceptable as formal school shoes:

- Trainers
- Leisure shoes
- Boots worn instead of school shoes
- Heavily branded footwear
- Platform shoes
- Open-toed shoes
- Shoes with flashing lights, bright colours or decorative additions.

Where a student requires alternative footwear for medical reasons, parents should contact the relevant Class Teacher (Junior School) or House Tutor (Senior School) in advance.

Winter boots may be worn for travel to and from school in severe weather. In such instances, students will be required to change into their formal school shoes once inside the building.

3.5 Outdoor Clothing

Almaty weather requires students to be properly prepared. During colder months, students may wear suitable outdoor clothing when travelling to and from school and when outside.

Outdoor clothing should be smart, practical and appropriate for school. Navy or black coats should be worn over formal uniform, not instead of it.

The following should not be worn during the formal school day:

- Hooded tops instead of the school blazer and knitwear.
- Brightly coloured coats.
- Casual fashion coats.
- Heavily branded coats, although discreet branding is acceptable.
- Sports team coats.
- Outdoor hats indoors, unless for cultural or medical reasons.

3.6 Appearance

Charterhouse expects students to be clean, neat, modest and appropriate in appearance. Appearance should support the tone of a formal school environment and should not distract from learning, safety or the wider standards of the school.

Hair should be:

- clean;
- tidy;
- of a natural appearance;
- suitable for a formal school environment.

Hair should not be dyed, bleached or styled in a way that is unnatural, extreme or distracting.

Long hair should be tied back to support safety in subjects such as Art, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Education and Innovative Technologies.

Hair accessories should be discreet and should reflect the main colours of the school uniform.

Make-up should not be worn by Junior School pupils to school. Where Senior School students wear make-up, it should be discreet, natural and suitable for a formal school environment.

The following are not appropriate during the school day:

- Heavy make-up
- Visible body glitter
- Strongly coloured eye make-up
- False eyelashes
- Decorative cosmetic additions.

Nails should be clean, safe and suitable for school. Only clear or neutral nail polish may be worn. False nails, long acrylic nails, strongly coloured nail polish or decorative nail art are not appropriate for school.

Students who **shave** should be clean-shaven, unless medical reasons apply.

Jewellery should be discreet and safe. A watch may be worn. Earrings, where worn, should be small, plain and suitable for school. They should not present a safety concern.

The following are not acceptable during the school day:

- Large earrings
- Multiple visible piercings
- Nose, eyebrow or lip piercings
- Large necklaces or bracelets

- Fashion jewellery
- Jewellery that may present a risk in practical subjects such as Physical Education, Art, Innovative Technologies or the sciences.

The school may ask students to remove jewellery that is unsuitable or unsafe.

3.7 Own-Clothes Occasions

From time to time, students may be permitted to wear their own clothes for special events, charity days, performances, trips or House activities.

Own clothes should still be appropriate for a formal school community. Clothing should be:

- clean;
- modest;
- in good repair;
- suitable for the activity;
- respectful of others.

Clothing should not display:

- offensive wording;
- inappropriate images;
- political slogans;
- excessive branding;
- references to alcohol, smoking or vaping;
- anything inconsistent with the values of a respectful school community.

Students should remember that Charterhouse Almaty remains a school environment even when uniform is not being worn.

3.8 Junior School Uniform

3.8.1 Pre-Prep (Reception to Year 2)

The Pre-Prep uniform is designed to be smart, comfortable and practical for younger children.

The Pre-Prep uniform includes:

- Official polo shirt
- Official dress
- Official knitted pullover jumper
- Official shorts
- Official trousers

- Black socks, for boys
- White socks or white tights, for girls
- Black formal school shoes
- Weather-appropriate coat
- Official and named school bag
- Named water bottle.

Pre-Prep pupils should also have the required PE and swimming kit, including:

- Official PE shirt
- Official PE shorts
- Official PE tracksuit bottoms
- Official PE tracksuit top
- Official school cap, where required
- Official House T-shirt, reflecting the pupil's allocated House
- Trainers suitable for indoor and outdoor movement
- Black or white sports socks
- Black swimming costume and official swimming cap
- Swimming goggles
- Towel
- Official and named sports bag.

3.8.2 Prep (Years 3-6)

In Prep, the introduction of blazers and ties gives pupils a particularly polished and purposeful appearance, helping them to take pride in belonging to Charterhouse Almaty and to develop the habits of presentation expected in a leading British school.

The Prep uniform includes:

- Official Prep blazer
- Official Prep shirt
- Official Prep tie
- Official knitted pullover jumper
- Official trousers or skirt
- Black socks, for boys
- Black or white socks or tights, for girls
- Black formal school shoes
- Suitable outdoor coat
- Official and named school bag
- Water bottle

Prep pupils should also have the required PE and swimming kit, including:

- Official PE top
- Official PE shorts
- Official PE tracksuit bottoms
- Official PE tracksuit top
- Official school cap, where required
- Official House T-shirt, reflecting the pupil's allocated House
- Trainers suitable for indoor and outdoor movement
- Black or white sports socks
- Boots for outdoor sport, where advised by the Director of Sport
- Black swimming costume and official swimming cap
- Swimming goggles
- Towel
- Official and named sports bag.

Additional sport-specific equipment may be required for certain activities. Parents will be informed in advance by the Director of Sport.

3.9 Senior School Uniform

In the Senior School, the formal uniform reflects the greater maturity and responsibility expected of older students. Blazers, House ties and carefully presented school dress give students a smart, confident and distinctly Charterhouse appearance, helping to set the tone for serious learning, courteous conduct and pride in belonging to the school.

The Senior School uniform includes:

- Official Senior School blazer
- Official Senior School shirt
- Official House tie, reflecting the student's allocated House
- Official knitted pullover jumper
- Official trousers, for boys
- Official skirt or trousers, for girls
- Black socks, for boys
- Black or plain neutral-coloured tights, for girls
- Black formal polishable shoes
- Suitable formal coat for cold weather
- Official and named school bag
- Water bottle.

Senior School students should also have the required PE and swimming kit, including:

- Official PE top
- Official PE shorts
- Official PE tracksuit bottoms

- Official tracksuit top
- Official House T-shirt, reflecting the student's allocated House
- Official school cap, where required
- Trainers for indoor sport
- Black or white sports socks
- Boots for outdoor sport, where advised by the Director of Sport
- Shin pads, where advised by the Director of Sport
- Black swimming costume and official swimming cap
- Swimming goggles
- Towel
- Official and named sports bag

Students representing the school in fixtures must wear the correct team kit as directed by the Director of Sport.

3.10 Physical Education, Sport and Fixtures

Sport is an important part of life at Charterhouse Almaty. Students are expected to participate fully, enthusiastically and safely.

Students must have the correct kit for Physical Education, sport, team activities and fixtures. All items should be named clearly.

Additional equipment may be required for particular activities, fixtures or weather conditions. In such cases, advance notice will be provided to students and parents.

Students who are unable to participate in PE or sport for medical reasons must bring a note from parents or medical evidence where appropriate. They may still be expected to attend the lesson and take part in an alternative way, such as observing, coaching, analysing or supporting.

Students selected to represent Charterhouse Almaty in sporting fixtures are expected to do so with pride, commitment and courtesy. They must wear the correct team kit as directed by the Director of Sport and conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on the school.

3.11 Labelling, Lost Property and Care of Uniform

3.11.1 Labelling

All items must be clearly named. This includes:

- blazers;
- shirts;
- trousers;
- skirts and dresses;

- jumpers;
- coats;
- hats, gloves and scarves;
- shoes;
- PE kit;
- swimming kit;
- towels;
- bags;
- water bottles.

Parents should use durable name labels or sewn-in name tapes wherever possible. The official school bag and sports bag should both be labelled clearly in a secure and visible place.

Unnamed items are much less likely to be returned quickly if they are lost.

3.11.2 Lost Property

Students are expected to take responsibility for their belongings.

Lost items will be placed in the School's Lost Property system on the ground floor of the Central Block. Named items will be returned to their owner where possible.

Parents are asked not to send valuable or unnecessary personal items to school. The school cannot guarantee the return of unnamed or unsuitable items.

3.11.3 Mending, Cleaning and Fit

Parents are asked to ensure that all uniform and sports kit:

- fits properly;
- is clean;
- is in good repair;
- is suitable for the season;
- is replaced when outgrown or worn out.

Shoes should be polished. Buttons should be replaced. Hems should be repaired. Damaged sports kit should be replaced.

Students are expected to take increasing responsibility for the care and presentation of their own uniform as they move through the school.

3.11.4 Items Not to Bring to School

Students should not bring the following to school unless specifically authorised:

- Expensive jewellery
- Large sums of money
- Unsuitable electronic devices
- Toys or games not required for learning
- Aerosol sprays
- Energy drinks
- Chewing gum
- Laser pens
- Items with blades or sharp points not required for lessons
- Any item that may cause distraction, damage or risk
- Any item prohibited by school policy.

3.12 Implementation and Follow-Up

The school will normally address uniform and appearance concerns in a proportionate and supportive way.

Where a student arrives in incorrect uniform or does not meet appearance expectations, the school may:

- speak to the student and remind them of the expectation;
- ask the student to correct the issue where this can be done immediately;
- contact parents where support is needed;
- ask parents to provide correct items;
- require unsuitable jewellery, accessories or items to be removed;
- provide temporary support or reasonable flexibility where a genuine issue has arisen;
- follow up repeated or significant concerns through the relevant Class Teacher, House Tutor, Deputy Head or Head of School.

The aim is to maintain standards calmly and consistently, not to embarrass students or create unnecessary conflict. However, persistent refusal to follow uniform and appearance expectations will be treated as a behavioural or pastoral matter.

3.13 Parent Responsibilities

Parents are expected to support the school by ensuring that:

- all compulsory uniform is ordered in good time;
- uniform is collected, checked and tried on before the start of term;
- any size exchanges are completed promptly where stock is available;
- all clothing and equipment are clearly named;
- formal school shoes are purchased and meet school expectations;
- PE and sports kit is complete.
- swimming kit is ready where required;
- uniform remains clean, repaired and appropriately fitted throughout the year;
- students do not bring unsuitable or prohibited items to school;

- any genuine difficulty with uniform or equipment is raised with the school in good time.

Parents should not wait until the first day of school to resolve uniform issues that could reasonably have been addressed earlier.

3.14 Uniform Shop and Purchasing

All items marked as official in this policy must be purchased from the School Shop, which is located on the ground floor of the Central Block.

Other items may be purchased elsewhere but must meet the school's specifications.

Before the start of each academic year, the school will provide parents with information about ordering arrangements, collection, fitting, exchanges and the operation of the School Shop.

4. Staffing and Resources

The table below outlines the responsibilities of staff and the role of relevant resources in the delivery of this policy:

Staff/Resource	Role
The Head	○ Overall responsibility for the standards, ethos and implementation of this policy
Heads of Junior and Senior Schools	○ Oversee uniform and appearance standards in their respective schools
Deputy Heads of Junior and Senior Schools	○ Lead the day-to-day implementation of uniform and appearance expectations in their respective sections of the school
Class Teachers	○ Support pupils and parents in understanding and maintaining uniform expectations in the Junior School
House Tutors	○ Support students and parents in understanding and maintaining uniform expectations in the Senior School
Director of Sport	○ Set expectations for PE kit, sports equipment, fixture kit and activity-specific requirements
School Shop Coordinator	○ Support parents with ordering, fitting, collection, replacement and availability of uniform items
Parents	○ Ensure that students have the correct uniform, that items are named, clean, repaired and properly fitted, and that concerns are raised in good time
Students	○ Wear uniform correctly, look after their belongings and take increasing responsibility for their own presentation as they move through the school

5. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or earlier if changes are required to uniform design, supplier arrangements, school structure, safeguarding expectations, health and safety requirements or operational practice.

Feedback from parents, students, staff, the School Shop, the Director of Sport and school leaders may be considered as part of the review process.

The Uniform and Appearance Guide that is shared with parents will be updated whenever there are changes to required items, images, dates, supplier arrangements or practical guidance for parents.