

Charging and Remissions Policy

Amended: July 2022

Approved by Trustees: September 2022

Review date: July 2023

Reviewing Panel: Finance, Estates and General Purposes (FEG)

Introduction

Charging for activities connected with schools:

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that there is clarity over those items which the school will provide free of charge and for those items where there may be a charge.

In general, no charge can be made where education is provided wholly or mainly during school hours that are part of the national curriculum. It is therefore not possible to levy a compulsory charge for transport or for visits to museums during school hours.

Voluntary contributions

The Head teacher or Governing Body may ask parents / carers for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

- any activity which takes place during school hours
- school equipment
- school funds generally

The contribution must be genuinely voluntary, though, and the pupils of the parents / carers who are unable or unwilling to contribute may not be discriminated against. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then it must be cancelled.

There is no legal reason why the school should not invite parents/ carers to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of providing activities within and outside school hours.

Residential trips

The School is permitted to charge for the cost of board and lodging during residential school trips. This cost must not exceed the actual cost of the provision. Where the trip takes place wholly or mainly during school hours, pupils whose parents / carers are in receipt of the following support benefits will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of these charges:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income does not exceed the national current limit.
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1st April 2018 your household income must be less than £16,000 a year (after tax and not including any benefits they get)

A similar entitlement applies where the trip takes place outside of school hours but it is a necessary part of the National Curriculum, forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed examination that the school is preparing the pupil to sit, or the syllabus is religious education. If the trip takes place outside school hours and **does not** form part of the above, the school can make a charge for transport.

Instrumental Music tuition

A charge may be made for instrumental music tuition. In cases of hardship the governors will consider in their absolute discretion the remission of fees (either in full or in part) for those pupils who they consider will benefit from such tuition.

Public Examinations

No charge may be made for entering pupils for public examinations that are set out in regulations. However, an examination entry fee may be charged to parents if:

- the examination is on the set list, but the pupil was not prepared at the school
- the examination is not on the set list, but the school arranges for the pupil to take it
- a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing body or LEA originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee

Charges may not be made for any cost associated with preparing a pupil for an examination. However, charging is allowed for tuition and other costs if a pupil is prepared outside school hours for an examination that is not set in regulations.

Charges for “finished products”

Schools can make a charge to cover the costs of materials/ingredients for subjects such as Design or Food Technology where the parents have indicated in advance that they would like their child to bring home the finished product.

Optional extras

This kind of activity can be charged for where the activity takes place outside school hours. This can include:

- Pupils’ travel costs.
- Board and lodging
- Materials, books and other equipment
- Non-teaching staff costs
- Entrance fees to museums, theatres etc.
- Insurance costs

Clothing


Although no charge can be made for “equipment” for use in school in connection with education provided during school hours, clothing is specifically excluded from the definition of equipment. Parents / carers can therefore be asked to provide their children with such things as PE kit, protective aprons and sports kit.

Calculating charges

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can't or won't. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising.

Parents / carers who would qualify for support are those who are in receipt of eligible benefits.

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents / carers.

Signed: 
Head Teacher

Dated: 12th September 2022

Signed: 
Chair of Trustees

Dated: 12th September 2022

