



Charging and Remissions Policy

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CONTENTS

AIMS	2
LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE	2
DEFINITIONS	2
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2
WHERE CHARGES CANNOT BE MADE	3
WHERE CHARGES CAN BE MADE	4
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS	6
ACTIVITIES WE CHARGE FOR	6
REMISSIONS	6
MONITORING AND REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS	7

'In the light of Christ we will shine together'

Jesus said: I am the light of the world. John 8.12

Live as children of light – for the fruit of light is all that is good and true and right. Ephesians 5.8-9

Our ambition is to serve our community by providing an excellent education, which is inclusive and distinctive within the context of Christian belief and practice, upholding our values in the daily life of the Academy and in our relationships with others.

1. AIMS

1.1. Our Academy aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

- 2.1. This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements.
- 2.2. It's also based on guidance from the DfE on [statutory policies for schools and academy trusts](#).
- 2.3. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. DEFINITIONS

- **Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- **Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Governing Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual Governor or the Principal.

The Governing Body also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.



4.2. **Principal**

The Principal is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3. **Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the Principal of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The Academy will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4. **Parents/Carers**

Parents/carers are expected to notify staff or the Principal of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. **WHERE CHARGES CANNOT BE MADE**

Below we set out what we cannot charge for:

5.1. **Education**

- Admission applications
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The National Curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the Academy
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the Academy
- Examination resit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the resit(s) at the Academy

5.2. **Transport**

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the Academy premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the Governing Body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the Academy

- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

5.3. Residential Visits

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The National Curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the Academy
 - Religious education
 - Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. WHERE CHARGES CAN BE MADE

6.1. Below we set out what we can charge for:

6.2. Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional extras (see below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities
- Examination resit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the resit(s) at the Academy and the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus

6.3. Optional Extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The National Curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the Academy
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the Academy
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or Governing Body has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

6.4. **Music Tuition**

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

6.5. **Residential Visits**

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

6.6. **General**

The cost of repairing damage and replacing equipment (lost, defaced or damaged) remains the responsibility of the parents/carers when this damage or loss is the result of their child's behaviour or negligence.

The Governors may from time to time, amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made.

7. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

- 7.1. As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the Academy is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.
- 7.2. Some activities for which the Academy may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include:
 - School Trips/Visits/Activities - out of school and in school we may request a voluntary contribution to cover costs of admission and transport.
- 7.3. **There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.**
- 7.4. If the Academy is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.
- 7.5. Nothing in this policy precludes the Principal/Governors from inviting parents/carers to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of providing education for pupils.

8. ACTIVITIES WE CHARGE FOR

- 8.1. The Academy will charge for the following activities:
 - The Academy offers an early morning club and after school clubs which are chargeable. The charge is determined by the Principal and is used to cover staffing costs and any additional resources required.
- 8.2. For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the Principal and reviewed annually. Parents/carers will be informed of the charges for the coming year in September each year.

9. REMISSIONS

- 9.1. In some circumstances the Academy may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Principal and will depend on the activity in question. All parents/carers, however, will have the right of appeal to the Governors normally represented by the Chair or Vice-Chair of Governors.
- 9.2. **Remissions for Residential Visits**

Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's 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 that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's annual gross income does not exceed £16,190)



- Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family's income must be less than £7,400 per year – after tax and not including any benefits)

10. MONITORING AND REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

- 10.1. The Principal/Operations Manager will be responsible for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of this policy. It will be reviewed annually by the Finance, Personnel, Audit and Risk Committee; or before at any time, if there is new relevant legislation or guidance.