

Charging and Remissions Policy

Date of Last Review: June 2023

Reviewed by: Rebecca Fawcett, Operations Manager

Approved by Governors: October 2025

Frequency of Review: Annually

Date of Next Review: September 2026

Contents

1. Aims.....	3
2. Legislation and guidance.....	3
3. Definitions	3
4. Roles and responsibilities.....	3
5. Where charges cannot be made	4
6. Where charges can be made	4
7. Voluntary contributions.....	7
9. Remissions	7
10. Monitoring arrangements	8

1. Aims

Our school 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 and will not be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some students from taking full advantage of these opportunities

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449 to 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.

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
- **Voluntary contribution:** a payment requested to support an activity; non-payment will not make participation impossible for a student.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Local Governing Committee

The Local Governing Committee (LGC) recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including trips, clubs and residential experiences can make towards students' education. The LGC aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the students of the school and as additional optional activities. However, due to the limited funds in the delegated budget the LGC reserves the right to make a charge for activities organised by the school.

The LGC has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

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

4.2 Headteacher

The headteacher 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 headteacher of any specific circumstances that they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school 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 headteacher 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 student is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for students learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the student's parent/carer
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the student has been prepared for it at the school
- Examination re-sit(s) if the student is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

5.2 Transport

- Transporting registered students to or from the school premises, where the Local Authority (LA) has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered students to other premises where the LGC or LA has arranged for students to be educated
- Transport that enables a student to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for that examination at the school
- 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 student is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Supply teachers, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying students on a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment (e.g. a model, art piece, technology project), where the child's parent/carer wishes the child to own them
- Optional extras (see section 6.2)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- Community facilities
- Examination re-sit(s) if the student is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school **and** the student fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus
- Where the student fails, without good reason, to attend or complete the exam, and the school has to pay the examination board.

6.2 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 student is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered student has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the student to school or to other premises where the LA or LGC has arranged for the student to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a student on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to students (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, transport to non-curricular events, 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 students will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of students participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other students 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 students who do not wish to participate.

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

6.3 Music tuition

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

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 student who is looked after by a local authority

6.4 Residential visits

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

For each chargeable activity, the school will provide a letter to parents/carers stating:

- nature of the activity;
- cost per student;
- what is included in that cost (travel, entrance, materials, staff);
- the opportunity for remission (and how parents may apply).

6.5 Damage to Property and Breakages

The school reserves the right to charge parents or carers for the cost of repairing or replacing any property or equipment that has been damaged, defaced, lost, or broken as a result of a student's deliberate or reckless behaviour, including acts of vandalism.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- damage to furniture, fixtures, fittings or school buildings (e.g. graffiti, broken windows, damaged toilets);
- damage to IT equipment, books, lockers or other learning resources;
- wilful damage to another student's or staff member's property while on school premises.

The charge may cover:

- the actual cost of repair or replacement;
- any associated labour costs;
- administration costs incurred by the school in arranging repairs.

The school will assess each incident individually and apply charges fairly and proportionately.

In serious cases, the school may involve the police and/or pursue recovery through legal means if necessary.

Parents will be notified in writing of any damage caused, the proposed charge, and the method and deadline for payment.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities that would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include:

- School trips
- Sports activities
- Workshops
- Visiting speakers

There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity (that is part of the national curriculum) if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the contributions do not cover the cost, the school may:

- subsidise from the school's budget;
- limit the number of participants; or
- cancel the activity.

The school will make clear to parents/carers in advance:

- the purpose of the contribution;
- the cost per student;
- what happens if contributions are insufficient.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances, the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the LGC and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

The school will offer full or partial remission of charges to parents in cases of financial hardship.

Eligibility for remissions will be determined by reference to free school meals eligibility or equivalent criteria. For example, remission may apply to families in receipt of:

- 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 you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- 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 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Remissions may cover:

- the whole or part of the charge;
- additional costs (e.g. travel, meals) to allow the student to participate.

All questions of remissions will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

The school may use discretion to remit charges for families experiencing exceptional hardship (even if not strictly meeting the above criteria).

Parents/carers seeking remissions should apply in writing to the Headteacher or designated member of staff.

The school will publish the criteria, but reserves the right to refuse remission in individual cases if unable to bear the cost collectively.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Finance team monitor charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the LGC.