



CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY

May 2024

Introduction

We want all our pupils to have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities, both on and off site, within and outside the curriculum, regardless of their family's financial means. This policy sets out our school approach to charging and remissions. This charging policy has been compiled in line with DfE requirements and in accordance with s457 of the Education Act, 1996. In doing this, our intention is to ensure transparency in setting charges and ensure all children are able to access all the provision on offer.

This policy does not apply to charges made and determined by other organisations offering activities and services on school premises.

1. Admissions:

No charge will be made for admissions.

2. School Meals:

No charge will be made for pupils entitled to free school meals. We will charge all pupils not entitled to free school meals an amount determined by the catering provider.

3. Activities for pupils that take place during school hours (school hours are those when school is actually in session and do not include the break in the middle of the school day):

No charge will be made for activities provided during school hours.

No charge will be made for transport during school hours e.g. to swimming.

A charge will be made to cover the cost of ingredients or materials where parents/guardians have confirmed in advance that they wish to own the finished product.

4. Activities for pupils that take place outside school hours (non-residential):

No charge will be made for an activity that takes place outside school hours when it is:

- a. a necessary part of the curriculum
- b. part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
- c. part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education

Optional Extras

We may charge for some other activities that take place outside school hours. The Head Teacher will decide which activities we make a charge for. The levels of charge (including any remissions) will be set annually on the recommendation of the Head Teacher and the Finance Committee.

Where we make a charge, the total collected will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise the cost to other pupils by paying more than an amount equal to the total cost of the activity divided by the number of pupils participating.

5. Activities that take place partly during school hours either on or off site (non-residential):

Where the majority of time spent on a non-residential activity is within school hours, we must treat the activity as if it is fully within school hours and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 3.

6. Residential:

Residential is classified as being within school hours if the number of school sessions missed by the pupils is at least 50% of the number of half days spent on the trip.

Board and lodging – We will charge pupils an amount up to the full cost of board and lodging on residential whether it is classified as taking place within or outside school hours EXCEPT where pupils are legally entitled to remission. In such cases no charge will be made for board and lodging. (See section 10 for guidance on details of legal entitlements to remissions).

Travel – If the residential is classified as being within school hours, no charge will be made for travel costs (legal requirement), although, a voluntary contribution may be sought. Where the residential is classified as being outside school hours, a charge will be made for travel to cover the unit cost per pupil other than those entitled to remissions (but no paying pupil will be required to subsidise the cost of non-paying pupils).

Activities on residential – If the residential is classified as being within school hours no charge can legally be made for the educational activities provided. If the residential is classified as being outside school hours, a charge will be made for the educational activities provided (see section 4).

7. Music tuition within school hours:

No charge will be made if the music tuition is an essential part of the national curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil (including instrument hire, music books etc).

No charge will be made for the first programme in which the whole class engages with the KS2 Programme of Instrumental and Vocal Tuition (Wider Opportunities). This includes instrument hire, music books etc.

No charge will be made for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours for children in care (including instrument hire, music books etc).

We will charge for all other instrumental and vocal tuition requested by parents/guardians and delivered by specialist tutors within school hours, whether offered to an individual or group of pupils. Charges will be determined by the Head Teacher and the Finance Committee and may vary depending on size of group, length of lesson and type of instrument

Where we make a charge for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours, we will remit charges for pupils on free school meals as defined in section 10 of guidance as well as in certain other circumstances (e.g. for siblings) in order to ensure specialist music tuition is accessible and affordable for all children.

8. Childcare:

We will charge families for any childcare offered to children before and after school (and during school holidays), with the level of fees and any remissions to be set and reviewed regularly by the Finance Committee, and in accordance with any requirements set by the Local Authority where it is subsidising the provision.

9. Damage to property and breakages:

We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of school property. This will be determined by the Head Teacher.

We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of property belonging to a third party where the school has been charged. This will be determined by the Head Teacher.

10. Remissions and Concessions:

We will comply with legal requirements for remissions as outlined throughout this document, for pupils defined as eligible in Local Authority guidance.

We may choose to subsidise, in full or part, charges for certain activities and pupils, as determined by the Governing Body, advised by the Head Teacher. The circumstances in which concessions are applied will be reviewed regularly.

11. Voluntary Contributions:

We may in certain circumstances invite parents/guardians to make a voluntary contribution towards activities that are exempt from charging.

Where we do ask for voluntary contributions, we will make it clear that children of parents/guardians who choose not to contribute will not be treated differently from those who do. No pupil will be excluded from the activity if their parents do not contribute.

If an activity cannot go ahead without sufficient voluntary contributions, this will be explained to parents when the contribution is requested. If the activity has to be cancelled due to insufficient funds, all monies received will be returned to parents/guardians.

12. Lettings:

The school will make its facilities available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges will be determined annually by the Finance Committee and a contract drawn up for each individual user. For users connected to the school, the charge will be based on the site staff overtime costs.

13. Other charges

The Head Teacher, Finance Committee or Governing Body may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services e.g. selling of uniforms, tuck shop.

14. Public examinations

No charge will be made for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list and the pupil has been prepared at the school.

Where supported by school, we will not charge parents/guardians for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list, but the pupil was not prepared for it at school. Where supported by school, we will not charge parents/guardians for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list, but school has arranged for the pupil to take it.