

Charging, Remission and Refunds Policy



Approved by: Governing Body

Date: 6th November 2023

Last reviewed on: 6th November 2023

Next review due by: November 2024

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.

It's also based on guidance from the DfE on statutory policies for schools and academy trusts.

School Trips

Day Trips – No compulsory charge will be levied in respect of day trips that take place during school hours or are part of the curriculum.

Residential Trips - Essential – For residential trips which are essential to the National curriculum, statutory RE or in preparation for prescribed examinations, a charge will be levied for board and lodging.

Residential Trips – Non-essential - For residential trips which are not essential to the national Curriculum, statutory RE or in preparation for prescribed exams, if the length of the trip extends beyond the school day, a charge will be levied up to the full cost of the trip.

Examination Entries

A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for pupils where the school has not educated the pupil for the examination.

A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for pupils where:

the school has not educated the pupil for the examination and

- it considers that for educational reasons the pupil should not be entered and
- the pupil's parent/guardian wishes the pupil to be entered (or pupil him/herself when over 18 years old).

In these circumstances, if the pupil subsequently passes the examination, the school may refund the cost.

A charge will be levied where a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the school paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.

The charge levied for examinations will be the cost of the examination entry, plus any applicable costs incurred.

Materials & Textbooks

Where a pupil or parent wishes to retain items produced as a result of art, craft and design or design and technology, a charge may be levied for the cost of the materials used. In the case of Food Technology, pupils usually provide their own ingredients, but if the pupil forgets, the school provides the ingredients and levies a charge. Textbooks are provided free of charge, but in some subjects, additional revision guides are available, for which a charge is made.

Music Tuition

The school levies charges in respect of individual music tuition, and group music tuition up to and including four persons, if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil.

Activities Outside School Hours

No charge will be made for activities outside school hours that are part of the National Curriculum or religious education, or that form an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination.

If a pupil is prepared outside school hours for an examination that is not set out in regulations (the full list of which is available from the school), a charge will be levied for tuition and other costs.

For all other activities outside school hours, a charge up to the cost of the activity will be levied. This will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Damage/Loss to Property

A charge will be levied in respect of wilful damage/disruption, neglect or loss of school property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials), the charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or other quantifiable costs. The charge will be at cost or lower as the Principal may decide.

Charges for the use of School Premises

The Governing Body will set and renew on an annual basis, charges for the hire of school premises and facilities. These charges will be minuted and made known to all external hirers of the school's premises and facilities. Charges can also be made for any additional service or resource.

Other Charges

The Principal, Resources and Audit Committee or Governing Body may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services, eg. For providing a copy of an OFSTED report.

Voluntary Contributions

Where the school cannot levy charges, and it is not possible to provide these additional activities within the resources ordinarily available to the school, the school may request or invite parents to make a contribution towards the cost of the activity.

Pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request or invitation. However, where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, then it will be cancelled.

Refunds

Request for refunds for trips will be considered on an individual basis and may be rejected if the school is unable to recoup the costs incurred.

In all cases of withdrawal, either voluntarily or otherwise, applications should be made in writing to the Principal. If approved, Refunds will be processed via the original method of payment.

The School reserves the right NOT to refund costs where a student is withdrawn from an activity by the School on the basis of the Student's unacceptable behaviour or concerns regarding attendance.

Remissions Policy

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged students, the Governing Body has agreed that some activities and visits where charges can legally be made, will be offered at no charge or a reduced charge to parents of students for whom the school receives:

- Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) funding or
- 16-19 Bursary funding.

Parents 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:

Parents 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 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)

In addition students may be given financial assistance with uniform and equipment through the hardship fund which is designed to help and support students where there is a demonstrable financial need. The level of support which the school can offer is dependent on the total funding available and the number of applications received. The final decision will be made by the designated Panel.

The Principal, Resources and Audit Committee or Governing Body can use their discretion when considering financial assistance in all other reasonable circumstances.