



Charging and Remissions Policy

Policy Reviewed and Adopted by Board of Directors:	Autumn Term 2022
Date of Next Review:	Autumn Term 2023
Responsible Officer:	Katherine Frazer

Charging and Remissions Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors of the Trust are responsible for determining the content of this policy and the Head Teacher / Head of School for implementation. Any determination with respect to individual parents/carers will be considered jointly by the Head Teacher and Board of Directors. While the responsibility for the implementation of this policy and provision rests with the Head Teacher/ Head of School, on an operational basis, the management, responsibility and evaluation of this policy is undertaken by the Chief Finance and Operating Officer, the Trust Finance Manager and Senior Administrators.

Suggested Audience

All staff and parents

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for activities, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents/carers.

Activities for which charges cannot be made

The Board of Directors recognises that legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- An admission application
- Education provided during Academy hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment).
- Education provided outside Academy hours, if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the Academy, or part of religious education.
- Tuition for students learning to play musical instruments, if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the Academy.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the student has been prepared for it at the Academy.

- In exceptional circumstances examination re-sits and at the discretion of the Head Teacher.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during Academy hours that is part of the National Curriculum or an examination.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place outside Academy hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the Academy, or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover those teachers who are absent from the Academy accompanying students on National Curriculum or Examination Courses.
- Transporting registered students to or from the Academy premises, where in the past, the local education authority has had a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered students to other premises where the [Board of Directors/Governing Body] or in the past, the Local Authority has arranged for students to be educated.
- Transport that enables a student to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the Academy.

Activities for which charges may be made

The Board of Directors and Head Teacher will consider asking parents/carers to meet the costs of the activities detailed in the following table. The charges will not exceed the cost of the provision and will be proportional for each student. Lessons / activities will not be confirmed until parental/carer agreement has been received, ideally by return of a signed reply slip.

Activity	Note
Board and lodging on residential trips	Information about activities and costs to be distributed to parents/carers well in advance of any trip, to enable financial planning by the family to take place
Materials or equipment if parents/carers indicate in advance that they want the child to bring it home.	
The proportionate costs for any student on activities wholly or mainly outside Academy hours ('Optional extras') to meet the costs of:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel • Materials and equipment • Non teaching staff costs and costs of staff specifically engaged for the activity • Entrance fees • Insurance costs 	
Vocal and musical instrumental tuition	Charges to cover the additional costs incurred by the Academy, beyond any element covered by public funding
Re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the Academy	
Examination fees where a student fails without good reason to sit an exam	After consultation with parents/carers
Any other education, transport or examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the Academy	
Any other education, transport or examinations fee unless charges are specifically prohibited	
Breakages, repairs and replacements as a result of damage caused wilfully or negligently by the student	Charges will be made after consultation with parents/carers and will not exceed total replacement /repair costs
Extra-curricular activities and clubs	Charges to cover the additional costs incurred by the Academy, beyond any element covered by public funding
Any extended Academy activity	Charges to cover the additional costs incurred by the Academy, beyond any element covered by public funding

The Academy will make every effort to ensure that all information lays out costs and activities as simply and clearly as possible and is communicated well in advance, to enable families to plan for these charges.

Remissions

Students whose parents/carers are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free Academy meal entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of charges for board and lodging costs during residential and other Academy trips.

The relevant support payments are:

- Universal Credit
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1998
- Child Tax Credit, where the parent/carer is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) does not exceed £16,190 (as at April 2013) (in respect of this item, account will need to be taken of any revision to the amount)
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

All letters to parents/carers regarding activities which request a parental/carer contribution will include a statement inviting those parents/carers receiving any of the benefits above to contact the Academy in confidence if they would like their child / children to participate, giving details of the relevant benefit, so if necessary the Academy can confirm this.

Voluntary Contributions

The Head Teacher may ask parents/carers for a voluntary contribution to support Academy activities.

The terms of any request made to parents/carers will specify that it is a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge. In addition the following will be made clear to parents/carers:

- a) That the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent/carer is under no obligation to pay.
- b) That registered pupils at the Academy will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents/carers have made any contribution in response to the request.
- c) The activity may not take place if insufficient contributions are made.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the Headteacher / head of school

Lettings

The Academy will make its facilities available to outside users and the community at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges will be determined annually by the Finance Audit Resources and Risk Committee

Other charges

Charges may be made in accordance with the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act legislation.

Academy Meals

The Board of Directors will determine and publish annually the price to be charged for Academy meals.

Monitoring and Review

The Chief Finance and Operations Officer / Senior Administrator, is responsible for monitoring all aspects of this policy. An annual written report will be made to the Finance Resources and Risk Committee, giving precise figures around charges and parental/carer contributions.