



# Charging and Remissions Policy

## Core Values

Readiness

Resilience

Respect

## School Values

Independence

Ambition

Compassion

Co-operation

Initiative

Enjoyment

Responsibility

Confidence

Celebration

Kindness

Honesty

Individuality

**Approved: Spring 2024**

**Review: Spring 2026**

## 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; and
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some children from taking full advantage of these opportunities.

## 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.

This policy is also based on guidance from the DfE on [statutory policies for schools and academy trusts](#).

## Definitions

*Charge:* a fee payable for specifically defined activities

*Remission:* the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

## Roles and responsibilities

*The governing board*

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but has delegated this to the Personnel and Finance Committee.

Monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the Personnel and Finance Committee.

*Headteacher*

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

*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.

*Parents/carers*

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

## Where charges cannot be made

We set out below what we **cannot** charge for:

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

#### *Transport*

- Transporting registered children to or from the school premises, where the local authority (LA) has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered children to other premises where the governing board or LA has arranged for children to be educated
- Transport that enables a child to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

#### *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 child is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education
- Supply teachers, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying children on a residential visit

### **Where charges can be made**

We set out below what we **can** charge for:

#### *Education*

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carer wishes the child to own them
- Optional extras (see below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see below)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

#### *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 child is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education

- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the child to school or to other premises where the LA or governing board has arranged for the child to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a child on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to children (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs 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 children will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of children participating.

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

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

#### *Music tuition*

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of children, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the child'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 child who is looked after by a local authority

#### *Residential visits*

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

### **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

**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.**

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

### **Activities we charge for**

The school will charge for the following activities:

- Wraparound care
- Afterschool clubs
- Nursery topup fees

The charges include staffing, building and insurance costs (see above).

The charges for each activity will be reviewed regularly and parents/carers will be informed of the charges with as much notice as possible.

### **Remissions**

In some circumstances, the school 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 governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits may be entitled to reduced charges for school visits or sports activities.

- 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)
- Be recorded as No Recourse to Public Funds

### **Monitoring arrangements**

The School Business Manager monitors charges and remissions and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the School Business Manager annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Personnel and Finance Committee.