

Charging and Remissions Policy

1. Context

The 1988 Education Reform Act sets out to maintain the right to free education, when activities taking place, wholly or mainly during normal teaching time. However, the act does allow for schools to invite voluntary contributions for any activity.

2. Introduction

1.1 The Academy Association recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, out of school trips, residential and experiences of other environments, can make towards students' all round educational experience and their personal and social development. (Throughout this policy, the term "parents" means all those having parental responsibility for a child.)

2. Charging

2.1 The Academy Association reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances for activities organised by the School: -

2.2 Trips

School trips and residential (all costs)

Activities outside School hours (all costs)

2.3 Materials

A contribution towards the costs of materials purchased by the School in relation to items produced by students which will be taken home for personal use;

2.4 Acts of vandalism and negligence

The Academy Association reserves the right to recover part, or the whole cost, of damage to buildings or equipment which is the result of vandalism or negligence by a student;

2.5 Examination fees

- i. If a student has not regularly attended the lessons for a particular examination subject, the examination fee may be requested.

- ii. If, without a medical certificate explaining the reason, a student fails to complete examination requirements for any public examination for which the School has paid an entry fee, the Academy Association may seek to recover the fee from the parent.
- iii. There may be a charge for examination entry where there is a request from the parent for additional subject entries to be made, which are not supported by the School.
- iv. If a late exam entry fee is the direct result of actions by a student or parent(s), the Academy Association may seek to recover the fee from the parent.

2.6 Music and Vocal Tuition

Although the law states that all education provided during School hours must be free, specialist music lessons are an exception to this rule. Charges may be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, and the teaching is not an essential part of the National Curriculum. Lessons can be for either an individual student or groups of any size appropriate to the lesson and health and safety considerations.

3. Remissions

3.1 The Academy Association may remit charges in full or in part to parents after considering financial support applications. The Academy Association invites parents to apply, in the strictest confidence, for the remission of charges in part or in full. The Head of Academy will authorise remission in consultation with the Chair of Association.

4. Insurance

4.1 Any insurance costs will be included in charges made for trips or activities.

5. Voluntary contributions

5.5 Nothing in this policy statement precludes the Academy Association from inviting parents to make voluntary contributions. The Academy Association should make clear that such contributions are voluntary that children of parents who do not contribute will not be discriminated against, and that if insufficient contributions are received the trip may be cancelled.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

6.1 The Academy Association will review this policy every year and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the School.