



POLICY FOR CHARGING AND REMISSIONS

Reviewer: Finance and
Resources Committee

Reviewed: October 2016

RATIFIED BY GOVERNING BODY ON: 9th November 2016

SIGNED:

(Chairman of Governors)

DATE:

Policy Statement

Following the Education Reform Act 1988, every school must have, and publish for parents, a charging policy. The Governors' decisions are set out in this policy.

The Aims of the Policy

The aims of this policy are to:

- a. define what the school can charge for
- b. clarify when voluntary contributions can be requested
- c. clarify when charges will be remitted.

Procedure

Books and Equipment

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is provided with pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, calculators, etc. Some subject departments will have, available to purchase, specialist items such as scientific calculators, protractors and laboratory coats.

If students lose or damage books or equipment issued to them, parents/carers are expected to pay for the cost of replacement or repair.

Materials

Parents/carers of students who are on practical courses (e.g. Food Technology, Art, etc.) may be asked by departments to make a contribution towards materials etc. that will be used during the course of the year. We will also use pupil premium contributions to support as required.

Activities

If an activity is deemed to be curriculum based, is within the school day or is part of an examination course, any payment from parents/carers is voluntary. However, if parents are unable or unwilling to contribute, it may be that the activity will not be able to take place.

Students will never be treated differently according to whether or not their parents/carers have made any such payments.

If an activity is outside the school day and is not part of an examination course, the specified payment is required for students to take part.

Residential Visits

For residential visits that take place mainly outside school time and are not required by an examination course, payment will be required for the student to take part. For all visits, pupil premium funding will be used to support students where appropriate.

Public Examinations

The Head:

- a. has the delegated responsibility to decide whether students are entered for

- particular examinations
- b. has the authority to charge for examination entries in certain circumstances (this will usually apply to 'resits' of modules or full exams where school has paid first entry).
- c. is authorised to request payment for wasted examination fees.

Music Tuition

The Head is authorised to charge for music tuition within and outside normal classroom activities.

Loss of and Damage to School Property

Parents/carers of a student who damages or loses any item of school property or equipment, such as computer software or a window, are liable for the cost of repair or replacement.

Complaints Policy

Under the Education Reform Act 1988, a procedure is laid down which relates to complaints about the action of a governing body in respect of the school curriculum and related matters. This document is available on request.

Most concerns or potential problems can be settled best in informal discussions with the Head and/or other staff in the school.

Remissions

Where the activity is mostly within school hours, the governing body may propose to remit, wholly or partly, any charge that would otherwise be payable under the terms of this charging policy.

Where an activity takes place partly within and partly outside of school hours, it will be determined as follows whether it is an optional extra activity that can be the subject of a charge.

In the following circumstances relating to non-residential activities, charges may be remitted.

- a. If 50% or more of the time spent on an optional extra activity occurs during school hours, including time spent travelling, it is deemed to take place within school hours.
- b. Where less than 50% of the time spent on an activity falls outside of school hours, it is deemed to take place outside of school hours. For example, if students leave on a theatre visit two hours before the school day ends but the visit continues until late evening, it is deemed to be outside of schools hours. If the number of half-day school sessions taken up by a visit is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half-days spent on a visit, it is deemed to be during school hours. (A school day must be divided into two sessions, with a

session meaning any period of 12 hours ending at noon or midnight.)

Therefore

a residential visit that starts at noon on a Thursday and ends at 9pm Sunday counts as seven half days; however, as only three are school sessions, the visit is deemed to be out of school hours.