

Charging and Remissions Policy

Date of Policy:	Autumn Term 2023
Review Date:	Summer Term 2025
Member of Staff Responsible:	Mr K Robinson, Headteacher

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on Charging for School Activities and The Education Act 1996, sections 449-462 which set out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools in England.

Activities without charge

There will be no charge for the following activities:

- Education provided wholly or mostly during school hours. This includes the supply of any materials, books, instruments, other equipment.
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination which the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- Instrumental and vocal music tuition for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent / carer.

Voluntary Contributions

The school may ask for voluntary contributions towards the cost of school-time activities to assist with funding, subject to the following conditions:

- Any pupils of parents who do not wish to contribute will not be treated any differently;
- Where there are insufficient contributions to make the activity viable, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then the activity will be cancelled.

All requests to parents for voluntary contributions will make it clear that the contributions are voluntary and there is no obligation to make any contribution.

Chargeable Activities

The school may recover the full costs of the following activities, but charges will not exceed actual costs:

- Any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them
- Optional extras (see below);
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see Appendix A).

Optional Extras

Charges may be made for some activities, which are detailed below:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - Part of the national curriculum
 - Part of religious education.
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit (subject to remission arrangements);
- Extended day services offered to pupils (for example breakfast club, afterschool clubs where this is run under the responsibility of the Governing Board).

In 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.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Remissions Policy

There will be no charge for board and lodgings for pupils whose parents are receiving specified benefits. This is subject to change but usually equates to pupils being eligible for free school meals (due to the receipt of specified benefits and not through the introduction of universal infant FSM). Current eligible benefits can be found on the DfE website.

Charges for other 'chargeable activities' may also be fully or partly remitted. Where appropriate Governors approve the use of the delegated budget and other funding streams such as pupil premium to allow 'chargeable activities' to be fully or partly remitted.

Details of any remission arrangements will be made clear when parents are informed of charges for individual activities.

Appendix A: Music Tuition

Although the law states that, in general, all education provided during schools hours must be free, instrumental, and vocal music tuition is an exception to that rule.

The charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 set out the circumstances in which charges can be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, including vocal tuition.

Charges may be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or to groups of any size, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent. Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision including the cost of the staff who provide the tuition.

The regulations make clear that charging may not be made if the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum, or for a pupil who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22(l) of the Children Act 1989).