

### Charging policy

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Authorised by: J Morris\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6.10.17\_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: J Ash-Edwards\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 18.10.17\_\_\_\_\_.

Custodian: J Morris\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6.10.17\_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Aims

Our academies aim 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 be made.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for academies activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for academies activities in England. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements.

## 3. Definitions

- Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

### 4.1 The local governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher. The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

In our academies, responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy has been delegated to the headteacher.

### 4.2 The headteacher

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

### 4.3 Staff

Our staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The senior leadership team will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

### 4.4 Parents

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

## 5. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what the academies cannot charge for:

### **5.1 Education**

- Admission applications
- Education provided during academies hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- Education provided outside academies hours if it is part of:
  - i. The national curriculum
  - ii. A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the academies
  - iii. Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the academies
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the academies

### **5.2 Transport**

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the academies premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the academies
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

### **5.3 Residential visits**

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during academies hours
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside academies hours if it is part of:
  1. The national curriculum
  2. A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the academies
  3. Religious education
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from academies accompanying pupils on a residential visit

## **6. Where charges can be made**

Below we set out what the academies can charge for.

### **6.1 Education**

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them

- Optional extras (see below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

## **6.2 Optional extras**

We are able to charge for activities known as ‘optional extras’. In these cases, the academies can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of academies time that is not part of:
  - i. The national curriculum
  - ii. A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the academies
  - iii. Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the academies
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to academies or to other premises where the local authority/governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-academies clubs, tea 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 pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during academies hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate. Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

### 6.3 Music tuition

The academies can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, 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 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 pupil who is looked after by a local authority

### 6.4 Residential visits

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

## 7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the academies are able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during academies hours which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the academies may ask parents for voluntary contributions include trips, sports activities, Enrichment Week activities.

***There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay.*** If the academy is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

## 8. Remissions

In some circumstances the academies may not charge for items or activities set out in this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

### 8.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Universal credit in prescribed circumstances
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,105
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008

## 9. Monitoring arrangements

The headteacher monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

**Document Version Control**

Date	Version	Comment	Ratified by	Reviewer
6.10.17	2	Converted into trust-wide policy	Board of Trustees (18.10.17)	J Morris