



Charging and Remissions Policy

Date policy adopted: 07.02.2018

Due for review: February 2020

The Board of Trustees has resolved to make charges as allowed by the Education Reform Act 1988.

CHARGING POLICY

Introduction

Schools in The Learning Partnership Trust do not charge for most of our school-time activities. However, we make appropriate charges or request a voluntary contribution from parents/carers, which, we believe, enables the provision of a wide range of enriching activities. If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents/carers, this is explained to parents/carers. Crucially, no pupil will be left out of an activity because their parents/carers are unable to make a contribution.

There is no limit on the level of voluntary contribution, which parents/carers can make to school activities nor is any restriction placed upon the use of such contribution. A request for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of an activity could, for example, include the cost of travel for accompanying adults. Also, parents/carers could be asked for a voluntary contribution towards part of the cost whilst the shortfall could be met from the proceeds of other fundraising.

School Meals

The charge for a school meal will be set annually by the Board of Trustees following consideration of the Catering Business Plan as part of the annual budget setting process.

All meals taken by pupils who are not eligible for free school meals will be chargeable, parents/carers are expected to make prompt payment. Where payments are not made in advance of the meal being taken, parents/carers will be reminded of their debt by email/letter. If arrears exceed £20.00 the school reserves the right to cease the provision of meals until full payment has been received.

There is no charge for pupils who are entitled to free school meals or universal infant free school meals.

Educational visits (including sports activities):

The academy:

- will seek voluntary contributions from parents/carers where applicable to cover associated entrance and travel costs
- will not exclude a child from participating in an activity during the school day on financial grounds

Where 10% or more of parents decline to make the requested voluntary contribution (their identity will remain confidential), or the contributions shortfall is £50 or more, then the visit or activity may not take place.

Residential activities:

The costs of residential activities can be high and such activities may only continue to be available if sufficient costs are recovered.

Charges that apply:

- travel costs – transport to and from the residential activity
- board and lodging
 - full cost of board and lodging on residential trips whether or not it takes place during school hours
 - parents / carers will be informed of the cost before the activity takes place
- costs of supply staff engaged to cover the staff accompanying pupils on a residential trip where the trip takes place during term time
- full cost recovery for residential activities that take place outside of school hours

NB> The academy will subsidise the cost of any residential trip for children of families claiming free school meals following a confidential request from the family.

No charge applies:

- where parents / carers in receipt of certain benefits may claim exemption in accordance with the remissions guidance below
- for education costs incurred on any visit during school hours
- for education costs incurred on any visit outside school hours if it part of the academy's curriculum

Music Tuition

Instrumental tuition or singing lessons do not form part of the curriculum but are an additional activity arranged by the academy and delivered by specialist tutors either on an individual basis or as part of a group, following parental request. The cost of such lessons is dependent on the charges applied by the tutors, the size of the group, the duration and frequency of each lesson.

The academy operates on full cost recovery basis. However, in order to ensure equal opportunities for all pupils, charges for music tuition within school hours for pupils eligible

for free school meals or children in care will be considered for remission in accordance with this policy (see remissions section).

Extra-curricular activities:

Curriculum related clubs

Where these activities run outside of normal school hours, (ie. sports clubs, homework club, art club) a charge may be made to cover costs of equipment, teaching or non-teaching staff, specialist staff /coaches or materials used. The total charge will not exceed the actual costs incurred in the provision of the activity and will be set by the Headteacher in consultation with their Local Governing Body.

Parents/carers will be advised of any such costs before their child is allowed to undertake any such activity and participation will be on the basis of the parents willingness to pay the charges.

Parents/carers are able to claim remission from such charges in accordance with the guidance below.

Breakfast Club (applicable to Takeley Primary School only)

- charges apply in accordance with the rules laid down in the academy's separate Breakfast Club agreement, which must be signed by parents/carers before their child is left in the care of breakfast club staff

Other areas

Charges apply:

- books and materials belonging to the academy that a pupil has lost
- books and materials that a parent wishes a pupil to keep after having been advised of the cost
- activities taking place outside school hours that are not
 - part of the academy's curriculum
 - part of a syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the academy
 - part of the academy's basic religious education
- property damage – each individual case to be decided upon by the Headteacher
 - full repair costs incurred as a result of wilful or reckless damage to academy property by a pupil or parent/carer
 - full recovery of costs incurred by the academy as a result of damage caused by a pupil to third party property

No charge applies:

- for activities taking place during school hours except any of those listed above
- for transport during school hours for school-organised activities except for educational visits and sports activities as detailed above
- for activities outside school hours that are part of the
 - set curriculum including sports matches against other academies / schools
 - syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the academy

- academy's basic religious education syllabus
- for admissions.

Voluntary contributions

The academy may, from time to time, ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions to the academy's general funds in order to assist with the provision of resources to enhance their children's education. There will be no pressure exerted and any contribution will be gratefully received.

Where the voluntary contribution applies to an educational visit or extra-curricular activity, if the sufficient level of contributions is not achieved, that activity may be cancelled; any monies already collected will be refunded to the relevant parents/carers.

DBS checks

The academy will cover the cost of DBS checks for all employed staff.
The academy will cover the cost of DBS checks for volunteers.

REMISSIONS POLICY

The Headteacher and Chair of Trustees will authorise the remission of charges in all cases.

The academy will consider the remission of charges to parents or carers who receive the relevant support payments (in accordance with the current DfE listing) which make their child/children eligible for free school meals and for children in care.

All claims for remission of charges should be addressed to the Headteacher and will be dealt with confidentially.

The academy may decide to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and pupils; each event or case will be considered individually by the Headteacher and the Board of Trustees.

Confirmation that the Charging and Remissions Policy in respect of The Learning Partnership Trust has been discussed and formerly adopted by the Board of Trustees

Signed by:

Chair of Trustees: Date: 7th February 2018

Print name: Diane Hancock

Agreed at the Board of Trustees Meeting on: 7th February 2018