



Charging, Remissions and Refunds Policy

1. Charges will be made for :

1. Activities arranged outside school hours, including the midday break and any extended day services, **except** activities :

- 1.1 required as part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination
- 1.2 provided specifically to meet the legal requirements of the National Curriculum
- 1.3 provided specifically to meet legal requirements relating to Religious Education

2. Activities known as 'optional extras'. These are activities arranged inside or outside school hours, that are not exceptions 1.1a, 1.1b or 1.1c.

Where an optional extra is being provided a charge can also be made for :

- 2.1 providing materials, books, instruments or equipment
- 2.2 support staff costs
- 2.3 teaching staff engaged purely to provide the optional extra, including supply staff or specialists – sports coach etc.
- 2.4 incidental expenses such as photocopying, scanning and laminating
- 2.5 buildings and accommodation
- 2.6 the cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for the teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument (including 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 parent/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

3. Any books, materials, instruments or equipment where the student's parent / carer wishes to own them.

4. Board and lodgings in relation to residential trips even if the trip is considered to be part of the national curriculum or takes place within school hours.

5. Instrumental music tuition provided either individually or in groups of any size, at the request of the parent/carers **unless** the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum subject to 2.5

6. Examination Fees where :

- 6.1 students are being entered for a non-prescribed examination for which they are being prepared with the parents' agreement
- 6.2 students are being entered for an examination where there has been private tuition only
- 6.3 students are re-sitting an examination at the parents' request and they are not being prepared for it at school
- 6.4 further scrutiny of results has been requested by parents
- 6.5 examination fees have been wasted by a student failing, without good reason, to complete the examination requirements
- 6.6 the packaging and delivery of exam results and certificates

7. Ingredients, materials, books, instruments or equipment where the students' parent wishes to own them

8. Damage to or loss of school property when these are the result of a student's behaviour or carelessness

9. School food or drink provided at break time, before or after school; or school food and drink provided at lunch time unless the student is entitled to a free school meal

2. Charges will not be made for :

1. An admission application to the school

2. Education during school hours including the supply of materials, books, instruments or other equipment, ***except for*** :

2.1 Optional extras - see 1.2

2.2 Board and lodgings for residential trips – see 1.3

3. Examination fees for entry to a prescribed public examination if the student has been prepared for it in school including re-sits – see 1.5

4. Education provided outside school hours, that meets criteria 1.1a, 1.1b or 1.1c

5. Music Tuition

5.1 in excess of the cost of the provision including the cost of staff who provide it, or in respect of a student who is looked after by the Local Authority

5.2 where students learn individually or in groups unless the tuition is provided at the request of the student's parent / carer

3. Transport

Charges *will not* be made for :

1. transporting students to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport

2. transporting students to other premises where the school has arranged for a student to be educated

3. transport that enables a student **to meet an examination** requirement when they have been prepared for that examination at the school

4. transport provided in connection with an **educational visit**, other than as an optional extra in 1.2

4. Parking at School

Cars parking in the school grounds are subject to parking charges, payable at the meters in the grounds. The charges do not apply during term time from 6am to 6pm.

Charges *will not* be made for or to :

1. Staff cars, where the vehicle has been pre-registered and the member of staff is carrying out an activity required by the school or as part of their contract of employment

2. Visitors, parents or suppliers where they are dropping off people or delivering to the school and will not be onsite for more than 15 minutes at any time

3. Visitors or parents who are attending school for a pre-arranged meeting during the hours of 06.00 and 18.00

4. Visitors or parents who are attending a pre-arranged meeting or a school event or activity, during the hours of 18.00 and 06.00 *

5. Parents attending a pre-arranged school event or activity on a **Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday** *

6. Visitors to Powerleague *

** A QR Code or Tablet will be provided for vehicle registration and vehicles **MUST** be registered*

4.1 Parking Membership

A membership programme is available whereby Trustees, Staff and Parents may pay an annual fee for parking which will allow them to park free of charge for 12 months.

More details available from Caroline Pearce.

5. Voluntary Contributions

Under the Education Reform Act 1988 parents cannot be obliged to pay for the cost of residential visits or trips, other than the cost of board and lodging, where the trip is considered to be :

1. part of the national curriculum,
2. part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination, or
3. part of religious education

even if it takes place outside school hours. In this case parents could be asked to pay a voluntary contribution for the costs.

If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund the activity then it must be cancelled and this intention must be made clear to the parents at the outset. All students must be given an equal chance to participate in the activity regardless of whether they make a voluntary contribution or not.

6. School Hours

For activities take place during *and* partly outside school hours:

1. if 50% or more of the time spent on the activity falls during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place during school hours
2. if 50% or more of the time spent on the activity falls outside school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours

there is a defined basis for determining the percentage allocation of time for residential trips.

7. Remissions and financial assistance

If a family has a low income Hertfordshire County Council may be able to give financial assistance with School meals, music fees, train and bus discounts. An application for financial assistance should be made directly to Hertfordshire County Council.

The charge for board and lodging costs of a residential visit, where the education on that visit must otherwise be provided free, will be remitted in the case of pupils whose parents or carers are eligible for free school meals on application to the school.

Sixth form students may also be eligible for assistance under the 16-19 Bursary award.

In other cases of genuine hardship the school will provide assistance where it has the funds to do so. Parents should contact the School in confidence. Each application will then be considered by the Headteacher with regard to :

1. previous help offered to that student
2. any contribution available from the student's family
3. the social and educational benefit to that student of the activity
4. the funds available at the time

The parent / carer of the student will be advised of the Headteacher's decision.

8. Refunds

There is no legal obligation upon the school to refund surpluses from school trips where a voluntary contribution is requested, however the school will not use trips to raise additional funds.

1. If the trip or activity makes a surplus then parents / carer should be offered a refund where the sum involved might reasonably be expected to be refunded. As a guideline the following is regarded as a reasonable threshold above which a refund will be offered :

1.1 any surplus of 5% or more of the contribution per head (rounded to the nearest whole pound below this amount). If the full per head cost was not paid then this should be a proportionate amount

or

1.2 £5 - if this is higher. (i.e. surpluses less than £5 per head will not be refunded)

If the surplus per head is higher than the appropriate threshold, the whole of the surplus is offered. The school can ask for parental permission to treat any such refund as a contribution to school funds.

2. Students unable to attend a trip or activity will be given any available refund, subject to :

2.1 The reason for absence from the trip

2.2 If due to illness or at the direction of the school, refunds may be made

2.3 If at the direction of the parent / carer, refunds may not be made

2.4 Any insurance claims made and resulting receipts from the insurance companies.

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