

# Charging And Remissions Policy



**Approved by:**

The Full Governing  
Body

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**Signed**

*M Greenwood*

Howard Park Community School

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# Charging And Remissions Policy

## Aims

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Our school aims to:

- › Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- › Clearly set out the types of activity than can be charged for and when charges will and will not be made
- › Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

## Legislation And Guidance

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This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449 to 462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England.

It's also based on guidance from the DfE on [statutory policies for schools and academy trusts](#).

## Definitions

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**Charge:** A fee payable for specifically defined activities

**Remission:** The cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable.

## Roles And Responsibilities

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### The Governing Body

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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.

### The Headteacher

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

### Staff

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Staff are responsible for:

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

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

## Parents/Carers

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

## Where Charges Cannot Be Made

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Below we set out what we **cannot charge** for

### Education

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- › Education applications
- › Education provided by school during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- › Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
  - The National Curriculum
  - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
  - Religious Education
- › Instrument of vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer
- › Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- › Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school.

### Transport

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

## Residential Visits

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- › Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- › Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:
  - The National Curriculum
  - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education
- › Supply teachers, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupils on a residential visit

## Where Charges Can Be Made

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Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

### Education

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- › Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carer wishes the child to own them
- › Optional extras (see next section)
- › Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- › Certain early years provision
- › Community facilities
- › Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school **and** the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus

### Optional Extras

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

- › Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
  - The National Curriculum
  - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education
- › Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- › Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the LA or 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-school 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/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school 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 that is to be charged for.

## Music Tuition

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Schools 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/carer.

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

## Residential Visits

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

## Voluntary Contributions

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As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities that would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include:

- › School Trips
- › Sport Activities
- › Study Guides

**There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.**

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

## Activities We Charge For

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Charges are set down as follows:

- › Breakfast Club: £7 per session.
- › After School Provision: £7 per session for pupils in reception to Y6 classes.
- › After School Clubs: £4.50 unless provided by an external provider who may direct their own pricing structure.
- › Dinners: as Kirklees Catering pricing
- › Milk: please see office for termly fee
- › Music Tuition: Please see office
- › Damage of books: A charge in line with the cost of replacing the book will be made.
- › Wilful damage of school property: The replacement price of that item

## Remissions

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

### Remission For Residential Visits

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

- › Income Support
- › Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- › Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- › Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- › The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- › Child Tax Credit – provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- › Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- › Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

## Monitoring And Review Arrangements

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This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher/full governing board every 3 years. They may, however, review the policy earlier than this if the government, or the LA, introduces new regulations, or receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

At each review, the policy will be approved by the full governing board.