

Initial Policy date	September 2018	Next scheduled review	July 2022
Governor approved	23 June 2021	Key person/people	Finance Manager
Model Policy		Model localised	Yes (HCC)
Pupil leadership team review	Y/N / N/A		

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS: Year 7 to Year 11

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that, during the school day, all children have full and free access to a broad and balanced curriculum in line with the vision, aims and values of the school. The policy has been informed by the DFE and local authority guidance.

The school day is defined as:

Secondary Phase:
 08:50hrs to 15:20hrs

Equality impact

This policy will ensure that no child suffers from unfavourable treatment because of their parent/carer's financial position.

Practice: During the school day

All activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum (plus Religious Education) will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It excludes charges made for teaching an individual pupil or groups of pupils to sing or play a musical instrument. Unless the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), a charge will be made.

Musical Instrument Tuition

Fees for musical instrument tuition from a peripatetic music teacher will be payable within the Autumn term as either a one-off payment or three equal instalments due at the beginning of September, October and November. If you withdraw your child from music tuition a refund will only be offered if the school is able to find a replacement to fill your child's session.

For children who are Looked After and those in receipt of Free School Meals, all instrumental /vocal music tuition is subsidised by the school.

Other Activities

There will be no charge for any activity that is an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination unless:

- The examination is on the set list, but the pupil was not prepared for it at this school;

- The examination is not on the set list but we arrange for the pupil to take it.
- Parent/carer requesting remark and agreed with school

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs e.g. charges for visits, additional materials. In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot make a contribution however, if not enough voluntary contributions are received The School may not be able to afford to run the trip or activity.

From time to time we may invite a non-school based organisation to arrange an activity during the school day. Such organisations may need to charge parents, who may, if they wish, ask the headteacher to agree to their child being absent for that period, in order to participate in activities organised by the centre.

Optional Activities Inside and Outside of the School Day

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided inside and outside of the school day, which are not linked directly to the curriculum for example, Coaching. Such additional activities are not part of the National Curriculum or Religious Education, nor are they part of an examination syllabus beyond the in-class provision.

Education Partly During the School Day

If a non-residential activity/visit happens partly inside the school day and partly outside of it, there will be no charge if most of the time to be spent on the activity falls within the school day. Conversely, if the bigger proportion of time spent falls outside of the normal school day, charges will be made. When such activities are arranged parents will be told how the charges were calculated and support given to pupils who are FSM or Looked After.

Residential During School Hours

Charges will be made for board and lodging, except for those in receipt of FSM.

Other charges will be made to cover costs when the number of school sessions missed by the pupils totals half or more of the number of half-days taken up by the activity. In such cases parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

School Mini-bus

Only the School's pupils, staff or parents may travel at a charge in the school mini-bus. Charges can only be levied if the school has a permit issued by the LA under section 19 of the Transport Act 1985. No permit is required if no charge is made to the user. Charges made for travel will cover only actual costs incurred, including depreciation; the service should not make a profit for the school.

Calculating Charges

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can't. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising. As much notice as possible will be

given to parents of the activity and the charge. Once a financial reconciliation has been undertaken any surplus identified over £5 per head will be refunded.

All requests for financial support through Pupil Premium or genuine hardship must be made in writing for the attention of the headteacher.

Best Value will be sought in planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

On behalf of The Finance Committee of the governing body, a specified Governor will monitor the impact of this policy by reviewing on a termly basis on those activities that resulted in charges being levied, the subsidies awarded (without giving names), the source of those subsidies, and evidence of impact on pupils' learning.

Damage to School

Where school property has been wilfully damaged, by a pupil The School may charge those responsible for some or all of the cost of replacement and repair.

Childcare Vouchers/Salary Sacrifice

Unfortunately, The School does not offer the facility for childcare vouchers/salary sacrifice schemes to be used for activities.

Residential Outside of School Hours

If the number of school sessions taken up by the visit is less than 50% of the number of half days spent on the visit it is deemed to have taken place outside of school hours. The School is able and will charge the full cost of all residential visits that fall outside of school hours. All trips must be paid for, in full, by the payment deadline. Where paying by instalments, if payments lapse, your child will not be able to go on the trip and the tour operator's policy will apply in respect of any refund that may be due.

Cancellation of Visits

Cancellations by Parents/Carers must be advised in writing. If you withdraw your child and the school is able to find a replacement you will receive a 100% refund. If no replacement can be found, then the tour operator's policy will apply.