



The Fountains Federation

Charging & Remissions Policy

Policy Owner: Sarah Gilraine

Reviewed: March 2017 / Ratified: November 2017

Date of Next Review: March 2020

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for school activities, external lettings and extended school provision, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents. Guidance is based on the Education Act 1996: Sections 449-462.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of the School are responsible for determining the content of the policy and the Executive Headteacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the Executive Headteacher and Head of School (and Governing Body if required).

Definitions

Community Facilities – activities which the governors do not feel is of direct educational benefit to children at the school

Extended school provision – provision of childcare outside the standard school day where it is optional as to whether the child attends

External Lettings – letting to an organisation other than the school

Remission – where a charge is not payable, either in full or in part

Prohibition of Charges


The Governing Body of the School recognise that the legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- * Education provided 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, or part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- * Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as an essential part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil.
- * Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school;
- * Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;
- * Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education;
- * Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- * Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- * Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- * Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school;
- * Transport provided in connection with an educational trip



Charges

- a) board and lodging on residential visits (not to exceed the costs)
- b) the proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside school hours ('optional extras') to meet the costs for:
 - (i) travel
 - (ii) materials and equipment
 - (iii) non-teaching staff costs
 - (iv) entrance fees
 - (v) insurance costs
- c) individual or group tuition in the playing of a musical instrument
- d) re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school.
- e) costs of non-prescribed examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school.
- f) any other education, transport or examination fee unless charges are specifically prohibited.
- g) breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils.
- h) extra-curricular activities and school clubs.
- i) letting of the school premises or grounds (in accordance with lettings fees).
- j) extended school care activities such as breakfast club, after school club, holiday clubs and "wrap around" nursery provision.
- k) charges for materials or ingredients where the pupils wish to have the finished product.
- l) cost of transport to take part in work experience.
- m) Cost of use of staff providing training and/or other support to external organisations. This charge will be a minimum of the staff cost including on-costs.



Charges to pupils / parents will not exceed the costs of the activity or event for which a charge is applied. The level of charges for the above will be delegated to the Executive Headteacher and consideration will be given to:

- * the proportion of the costs recovered where a charge is to be made;
- * whether any remission is to extend beyond the statutory minimum;
- * whether or not special consideration is to be given to hardship cases not contained within the exemptions and how this is to be determined;
- * arrangements for education where the parents fail to pay the charge being levied by the school;
- * the level of support from the school budget where the level of voluntary contributions is insufficient to fund the visit or journey;
- * any charge for a pupil activity should not exceed the actual cost. If further funds need to be raised to help in hardship cases, this must be voluntary
- * for lettings, the charge should at least cover the cost, including:

Services (heat & light)


Staffing (security, caretaking & cleaning)

Administration

Wear & tear

Parents may be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following:

- a) Educational Visits
- b) Extra Curriculum Activities
- c) Fundraising
- d) Sponsored charities
- e) Donation towards Exam Books
- f) Curriculum Activities e.g. food technology



The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request is for a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge. In addition the following will be made clear to parents:

a) that the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay; and

b) that registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.

The costs of any optional extra undertaken by any pupil whose parents/guardians are unable to pay may not be included in the charge to other pupils but must be funded through the delegated budget, school fund or other fundraising.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the Executive Headteacher.

Policy Review

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