

Charging and remissions policy

Mason Moor Primary School



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1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made

2. Legislation and guidance

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

3. Definitions

- **Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- **Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The governing board

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.

4.2 Headteachers

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

4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- › Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- › Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which 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.

4.4 Parents

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

5. Where charges cannot be made

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

5.1 Education

- › Admission applications
- › 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- › Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- › 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

5.2 Transport

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

5.3 Residential visits

- › 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 to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

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

6.1 Education

- › Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- › Optional extras (see below)
- › Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- › Certain early years provision
- › Community facilities

6.2 Optional extras

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 local authority 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 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 which is to be charged for.

6.3 Music tuition

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.

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

6.4 Residential visits

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

If the school withdraws a pupil then a full refund will be returned to the payee. However, if a parent/guardian decides to withdraw the pupil then there will not be a refund.

7. Voluntary contributions

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 to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

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

- › Visits to museums
- › Sporting activities which require transport expenses
- › Outdoor adventure activities
- › Visits to or by a theatre company
- › School Trips
- › Musical Events

There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents 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.

As a school, we are committed to:

- › Giving parents as much advance warning as possible for any activities when we will be inviting a voluntary contribution towards the cost.
- › Offering, wherever possible, a payment plan so that parents can pay their contribution by instalments which should also support parents with more than one child so that they can spread the cost.
- › Providing the best value for money possible.
- › Providing transparent information to parents so they are aware of the subsidy provided by the school and can understand that they are not faced with meeting the full cost of any trips/activities.

8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- › Community facilities – The school can let facilities in compliance with our safeguarding duties towards our pupils and appropriate insurance arrangements being in place. The governing body will be notified on an lettings. Where the hirer is providing a service directly to the children of the school, for example an extracurricular club, we may make no charge to the hirer.
- › Damage to School Property – The school will cover accidental breakages of school property. Deliberate or wilful acts which result in breakage or damage to school property may be charged for at a rate appropriate to replacement costs.

- Dinner money – Dinners are charged for at a rate set by City Catering and the full cost passed onto parents. For children eligible for Free School Meals, no charge is made. Since September 2014, we have provided a free school meal for all children in Years R, 1 and 2 under the universal infant fee school meals initiative.
- Breakfast Club – We work closely with the YMCA Millbrook who provide a breakfast club to pupils. Costs and payment are therefore made directly to the YMCA following their charges policies and procedures. School may contact the YMCA on behalf of a parent where financial consideration needs to be given, the YMCA, at their discretion may then adjust payment or waive costs.
- Other – The Headteacher or Governing Body may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services, e.g. for providing a copy of an OFSTED report.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents 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 that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's annual gross income does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family's income must be less than £7,400 per year – after tax and not including any benefits)

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Business Manager monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by Business Manager every year.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Board and Headteacher.

This policy links to the Debt policy that the school is currently developing.