

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

The Policy was formally adopted by the Governing Board on:	Date: 2.11.25
--	---------------

Charging and Remissions Policy

The Governing Body has resolved to make charges as allowed by the Education Reform Act 1988.

CHARGING POLICY

School Meals

The charge for a school meal will be set annually by the governing body following consideration of the Catering Business Plan as part of the annual budget setting process. Where a change in price has been made parents will be made aware via email.

All meals taken by pupils who are not eligible for free school meals will be chargeable and parents/carers are expected to make prompt payment. For arrears of £10 and above parents/carers will be reminded of their debt by telephone/email/letter. If debts are not cleared this may lead to a child not being able to have further school meals.

There is no charge for pupils who are entitled to free school meals or universal infant free school meals.

The charge for staff school meals will be set annually by the governing body following consideration of the Catering Business Plan as part of the annual budget setting process. For arrears of £15 and above staff will be reminded of their debt via email. If debts are not cleared then staff will not be able to order a school meal. On days where members of staff are completing a duty, they will be entitled to a free school meal. Should any member of staff leave the school with an outstanding debt then this will be reclaimed from their final salary.

Music Tuition

Instrumental tuition or singing lessons do not form part of the curriculum but are an additional activity arranged by Essex Music Services and delivered by specialist tutors either on an individual basis or as part of a group, following parental request. The cost of such lessons is dependent on the charges applied by the tutors/company, the size of the group, the duration and frequency of each lesson.

The school is not involved in payment for these private lessons. However, in order to ensure equal opportunities for all pupils, charges for music tuition within school hours for pupils eligible for free school meals or children in care will be considered for remission in accordance with this policy (see remissions section).

There will be no charge applied if the music tuition forms part of a public examination syllabus being followed by a pupil of the school.

Educational visits:

The school:

- will seek voluntary contributions from parents/carers where applicable
- will not exclude a child from participating in an activity during the school day on financial grounds

Where 10% or more of parents decline to make the requested voluntary contribution (their identity will remain confidential), or the contributions shortfall is £50 or more, then the visit or activity will not take place.

Residential activities:

The costs of residential activities can be high and such activities may only continue to be available if sufficient costs are recovered.

Charges that apply:

- travel costs - transport to and from the residential activity
- board and lodging
 - full cost of board and lodging on residential trips whether or not it takes place during school hours
 - parents / carers will be informed of the cost before the activity takes place
- ~~5%~~ 10% of the cost of the trip for admin costs and credit card/online payments costs
- full cost recovery for residential activities that take place outside of school hours

The school may subsidise 50% of the cost per pupil of any educational visit/residential trip for children of families claiming free school meals or are eligible for PPG ~~50% of cost per pupil~~.

Parents with debts to the school for dinner money or out of school clubs may not be allowed to attend the residential unless the debts are first cleared.

Where parents change plans and decide for their child not to attend a residential, a refund may only be available if the provider agrees to refund minus the non-refundable deposit, any transport costs and admin costs. The school shall not be accountable for or cover any such costs.

No charge applies:

- where parents / carers in receipt of certain benefits may claim exemption in accordance with the remissions guidance below
- for education costs incurred on any visit during school hours
- for education costs incurred on any visit outside school hours if it part of the school's curriculum

Examination fees

No charge when:

- an exam is part of the curriculum
 - an exam is on the school's set examinations list
 - the pupil has been prepared for that exam by the school
 - the exam is not on the set list, but has been arranged by the school
-

Charges do apply when:

- the pupil has not been prepared for the exam by the school
- the pupil wishes to re-sit an exam
- the pupil fails to reach the required standard without good reason (the school may ask the parents to pay the original exam fee)

Extra-curricular activities:

Curriculum related clubs

Where these activities run outside of normal school hours, (ie. sports clubs, homework club, art club) a charge may be made to cover costs of equipment, teaching or non-teaching staff, specialist staff /coaches or materials used. The total charge will not exceed the actual costs incurred in the provision of the activity and will be set by the headteacher.

Parents/carers will be advised of any such costs before their child is allowed to undertake any such activity and participation will be on the basis of the parents' willingness to pay the charges.

Where clubs are run through an outside provider, eg CMXSC, the company costs shall be determined by the company and included in the cost to parents of any activity club.

Parents/carers are able to claim remission from such charges in accordance with the guidance below.

Out of School Clubs

For breakfast and afterschool club run by the school, parents will need to book this through Scopay which will not allow parents to book sessions without payment in advance. It is recognised that childcare vouchers are a valid form of payment but receipt of income may be at a later date. Those who require emergency childcare can be booked into afterschool club on the day and payment collected later, however this should be monitored closely and only occur in exceptional circumstances. Parents must sign the breakfast and afterschool club agreement before their child/ren is left in their care. Where a parent is late collecting their child from afterschool club a late fee of £10 per 30 minutes will apply, this will be charged through an invoice to the parent.

Other areas:

Charges apply:

- where a Subject Access Request (SAR) has been made, the school reserves the right to charge an admin and resources fee
 - books and materials belonging to the school that a pupil has lost
 - books and materials that a parent wishes a pupil to keep after having been advised of the cost
 - activities taking place outside school hours that are not
 - part of the school's curriculum
 - part of a syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school
 - part of the school's basic religious education
 - property damage - each individual case to be decided upon by the headteacher
 - full repair costs incurred as a result of wilful or reckless damage to school property by a pupil or parent/carer
-

- full recovery of costs incurred by the school as a result of damage caused by a pupil to third party property

No charge applies:

- for activities taking place during school hours except any of those listed above
- for transport during school hours for school-organised activities except for educational visits as detailed above
- for activities outside school hours that are part of the
 - set curriculum including sports matches against other schools / academies
 - syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school
 - school's basic religious education syllabus
- for admissions, except in the case of failed appeals where costs may be recovered.

Voluntary contributions

The school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions to the school's general funds in order to assist with the provision of resources to enhance their children's education. There will be no pressure exerted and any contribution will be gratefully received.

Where the voluntary contribution applies to an educational visit or extra-curricular activity, if the sufficient level of contributions is not achieved, that activity will be cancelled; any monies already collected will be refunded to the relevant parents/carers.

DBS checks

The school will cover the cost of DBS checks for all employed staff and volunteers.

Refunds

School meals

- Where payment for a school meal is received in advance and the pupil is absent due to illness, the funds will be retained to be used for future meals.
- If the school has to cancel meal provision for a short time, the income received in advance will be recorded against each individual pupil to be used to cover future meals; where that amount exceeds £30 for any one pupil, the parent/carer may request a refund.
- When a pupil leaves the school and income has been received but meals not taken, the parent is entitled to request a refund. Where the figure exceeds the amount of the school meal lessor amounts will be retained in school funds.

Educational visits

- When a pupil is absent due to illness and does not attend an educational visit, the transport/entrance cost will not be refunded, where already committed. However, where possible, the school will endeavour to recover costs related to that activity and, if successful, will then refund the parent/carer.
 - If a trip has to be cancelled by the school, parental contributions will be refunded, less any initial deposits withheld by the venue.
-

- Where contributions for an activity exceed the final total cost by more than £10 per pupil, a refund will be given. Excess income less than £10 per pupil will be retained in school funds. Excess expenditure will be paid from school budget.

Residential activities

- If a pupil does not attend a residential activity due to illness, the school will endeavour to recover costs, through the trip insurance and, if successful, will then pass this refund onto the parent/carer; please note that initial deposits may be retained by the travel company.
- Where a residential trip is cancelled by the travel company, the school will endeavour to recover full refunds which, upon receipt, will be passed onto the parents/carers.
- Where a residential trip is cancelled by the school, parental contributions already received will be refunded, less any initial deposits withheld by the venue.

Music Tuition

- Refunds will need to be arranged with the company who the tuition was booked with and refer to their policies regarding refunds.

Extra-curricular activities

- If a pupil does not attend an activity due to illness, no refund applies.
- Where curriculum related clubs are cancelled by the school, the income received will be held to cover the cost of the next round. Where pupils are not taking part in the future, parents/carers are entitled to request a refund.

Outside of school hours activities - not part of the curriculum, or public examination syllabus or part of the academy's basic religious education

- If a pupil does not attend an activity due to illness, no refund applies.
- Where the activity is cancelled by the school, the income received will be held to cover the cost of the next round. Where pupils are not taking part in the future, parents/carers are entitled to request a refund.
- Where the activity is arranged by the school but has been cancelled by external organisers/tutors/sports coaches, the school will endeavour to obtain refunds which, upon receipt, will be passed onto the parents/carers.
- Where an activity arranged by external organisers directly with parents/carers is cancelled, the parents/carers must contact the organisers to obtain a refund in accordance with the separate booking agreement.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

- Parents are entitled to request a refund where the figure exceeds the cost of the club, lesser amounts will be retained in school funds.
-

REMISSIONS POLICY

The headteacher and Chair of Governors will authorise the remission of charges in all cases. The school will consider the remission of charges to parents or carers who receive the relevant support payments (in accordance with the current DfE listing) which make their child/children eligible for free school meals, entitled to PPG and for children in care.

All claims for remission of charges should be addressed to the headteacher and will be dealt with confidentially.

The school may decide to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and pupils; each event or case will be considered individually by the headteacher and the governing body.
