



CORE
EDUCATION
TRUST

Charging and Remissions

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1 Introduction

This policy sets out when parents of students at an academy within the CORE Education Trust will be asked to pay for school activities, when they will be asked to make a voluntary contribution and when they will not be asked to pay or contribute.

This policy also sets out when costs will be waived for students from low income households, which can be found in the 'remissions' section.

Throughout this policy, the term "parents" means all those having parental responsibility for a student.

2 Admissions

The school **does not** make requests for financial contributions (either in the form of voluntary contributions, donations or deposits (even if refundable) as any part of its admissions process.

3 Education provided during school hours

Subject to the limited exceptions outlined in this policy, the school **does not** charge for education provided during school hours, including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or equipment.

4 Education provided outside of school hours

No charge will be made for education provided outside of school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for by the school or part of religious education.

5 School meals

5.1 The school **does not** charge for school meals where the student is eligible for free school meals.

5.2 Students who are not entitled to free school meals **will** be charged.

6 Prescribed public examinations

6.1 The school **does not** charge for entry for a prescribed public examination (including re-sits) if the student has been prepared for it by the school.

6.2 However, if a student fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus, the school **may** seek to recover the fee from the student's parent/carer.

7 Materials, books, instruments or equipment

- 7.1 The school **may** charge for materials, books, instruments or equipment that the parent/carer wishes their child to keep or own.
- 7.2 Such charges **will not** exceed the cost of the item and parent/carer will be made aware at the outset that a charge will be made and the amount.

8 Music, instrumental or vocal tuition

- 8.1 The school **may** charge for tuition in singing or in playing a musical instrument during school hours if it is provided at the request of the student's parent/carer. This applies to individual and group tuition.
- 8.2 The charges **will not** exceed the cost of the provision and may include the cost of the staff to provide the tuition, instruments, music books and exam fees.
- 8.3 **No charge** will be made if the tuition is:
- provided to a student who is looked after by a local authority; or
 - provided as part of the national curriculum during school hours or required as part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination for which the student is being prepared by the school.

9 Transport

The school **does not** charge for:

- transporting students to or from the school's premises where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- transporting students to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for students to be educated
- transport that enables a student to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for that examination by the school
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit

10 Residential visits

10.1 The school **does not** charge for:

- 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, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for by the school or is part of religious education

- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are accompanying students on a residential visit
- 10.2 The school **will** charge for board and lodging relating to residential visits (see **section 10**).

11 Optional extras

- 11.1 The school **does** charge for ‘optional extras’.
- 11.2 Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement will be required before an optional extra for which a charge is made is provided.
- 11.3 Optional extras include:
- education provided outside of school hours that is not part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for by the school or part of religious education
 - examination entry fee(s) if the student has not been prepared for the examination(s) by the school
 - other transport (outside of that outlined in **section 8**)
 - board and lodging for a student on a residential visit
 - extended day services offered to students (for example breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)
- 11.4 In calculating the cost of an optional extra an amount **will** be included in relation to:
- any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
 - the cost of buildings and accommodation
 - support staff
 - teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, which includes 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

- 11.5 Any charge for an optional extra **will not** exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra, divided equally by the number of students participating. It **will not** include an element of subsidy for any other students wishing to participate in the activity whose parent/carer is unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

12 Voluntary contributions

- 12.1 The school may ask parents for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any of its activities.
- 12.2 Where it is intended that an activity is to be funded by voluntary contributions, the Headteacher will ensure that parents are made aware at the outset that:
- the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions
 - there is no obligation to make any contribution
 - if insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund the activity, and the school is unable to fund it from some other source, then the activity will be cancelled.
- 12.3 No student will be excluded from an activity simply because their parent is unwilling or unable to pay. Students whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay will still be given an equal chance to participate in the activity.

13 Refunds

- 13.1 Schools operate a strict 'payment in advance' policy and do not provide credit to parents. Failure to meet the payment instalment dates set out in relation to an optional extra may result in the student being removed from the activity.
- 13.2 Request for refunds for activities will be considered on an individual basis and may be rejected if the school is unable to recoup the costs incurred.
- 13.3 In all cases of withdrawal, either voluntarily or otherwise, applications should be made in writing to the Headteacher. If approved, refunds will be processed via the original method of payment.
- 13.4 The school reserves the right not to refund costs where a student is withdrawn from an activity by the school on the basis of a student's breach of the school's behaviour policy. The definition of 'poor behaviour' will be as decided by the Headteacher.
- 13.5 The academy reserves the right not to refund costs where a pupil is withdrawn from an activity by the academy on the basis of a pupil's breach of the academy's behaviour policy.

14 Damage to property and breakages

- 14.1 Where the school's property has been wilfully or recklessly damaged by a student or parent, the school **may** charge those responsible for some or all of the cost of repair or replacement.
- 14.2 Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged by a student, and the school has been charged, the school **may** charge those responsible for some or all the cost.

15 Remissions

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits **may** be exempt from paying certain costs (including the cost of board and lodging related to residential visits):

- Income Support
- Income based Job-seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (where the person is not receiving Working Tax Credit as well and has an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Income related employment and support allowance
- Universal Credit – if applied for on or after 1 April 2018, household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits)

16 Complaints

Complaints regarding this policy or its application should be raised under the school's usual complaints procedure.