

3 CHARGING AND REMISSION

Overview

The statutory arrangements for the remission of charges cover parents/carers in receipt of Income Support, Family Credit, Jobseekers' Allowance (payable under the Jobseekers Act 1995) or Disability Working Allowance charges in respect of Board and Lodging (section 2), materials (section 4), and activities outside school hours (section 6).

Those parents must receive full remission of Board and Lodging charges where the activity takes place out of school hours or the activity is necessary for a prescribed public examination or the National Curriculum. In other circumstances the school can make a contribution, depending on the family circumstances, to the cost of the visit, at the Principal's discretion. The Principal may remit in full or part charges in respect of a pupil, as is reasonable in the circumstances.

The Principal may decide not to levy charges in respect of a particular activity, if it is reasonable in the circumstances.

Detailed Policy

In accordance with the Education Reform Act of 1988 and sections 449-462 of the Education Act, 1996 no charges are to be made for any books, materials, equipment or apparatus used during school hours.

The charging policy is applied in line with section 457 of the Education Act 1996 which e.g. allows charges to be made for residential school trips and artefacts made in school and taken home.

Voluntary contributions

Where an Academy cannot levy charges and it is not possible to make these additional activities within the resources available to the Academy, the Academy may request or invite parents to make a contribution towards the cost of the trip or activity. Students will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request or invitation. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity viable, then it will not take place.

No student will be disadvantaged as a result of family circumstances. A remissions policy will be applied. The charges may be remitted in part or full as reasonable in particular circumstances.

Refund of surplus money

Where, after the visit, there is a financial surplus that is equal to £3 or more per place, money should be shared evenly between the contributors, unless written agreement has been received to the contrary. Smaller balances will be retained and earmarked to support future trips and visits

Specific examples of how the charging policy will be applied.

Educational day visits:

- No charge will be levied in respect of day visits that take place during school hours and are part of the curriculum.
- Visits for curriculum enhancement can be charged.

Residential visits:

- For those which are essential to the National Curriculum, preparation for prescribed examinations a charge will be levied for Board, Lodging and transport.
- For those which are not essential to the National Curriculum, statutory RE, preparation for prescribed examination a charge will be levied for the full cost if the amount of school time is less than half of the total time of the trip. If the amount of school time is half or more of the total time of the trip, a charge will be levied to recover costs.

Examination Entries:

- A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for students where the Academy has not prepared the student for the examination;
- A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for students where the Academy has prepared the student for the examination and it considers that for educational reasons the student should not be entered and the student's parent/carer wishes the student to be entered (or the student him/herself when over 18 years old). In these circumstances, if the student subsequently passes the examination, the Academy will refund the cost.
- A charge will be levied where a student fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the Academy paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.
- A charge will be levied for student re-sitting an examination

Materials and Textbooks:

- Where a student or parent/carer wishes to retain items produced as a result of art, craft and design, or design and technology, a charge may be levied for the cost of the materials.;
- In the case of Food Technology, students usually provide their own ingredients, however if the student forgets, a charge can be levied if ingredients are provided;
- Textbooks are provided free of charge, however in some subjects, additional revision guides are made available, for which a charge is made.

Music Tuition:

- The cost of peripatetic tuition is subsidised by the Academy;
- No charge is levied where music tuition is an essential part of the National Curriculum or a prescribed public examination syllabus followed by the pupil.
- Remission of RMS fees is available when parents receiving music tuition are in receipt of relevant benefits.

Out of School activities:

- No charge will be made for activities outside school hours that are part of the National Curriculum, or that form an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination.
- If a student is prepared, outside school hours, for an examination that is not set out in regulations (the full list of which is available from the Academy), a charge will be levied for tuition and other costs.
- For all other activities outside school hours, a charge up to the cost of the activity will be levied.

Damage/Loss to property:

- A charge will be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of Academy property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials), the charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Principal may decide.

Expenses

- The academy will expect parents to cover any costs involved in interviews at universities, work experience travelling expenses etc. A small fund will exist to assist families on low income levels. Application for such funding will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and any such application should be made direct to the Principal.
- A charge will be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials) belonging to a third party, where the cost has been recharged to the Academy. The charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Principal may decide.

Sale of items

- Departments throughout the academy may purchase items in bulk and sell at cost to pupils, including examination revision materials. Each academy will ensure that all income taken for these sales is fully recorded and prepared for banking at the earliest opportunity.

Other charges

- The Principal may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services e.g. copying a student's file.

The Academy welcomes extra funds raised by Parent Teacher Student Partnership groups and this income will be earmarked to purchase special items.

The Academies will make their facilities available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. Letting and hire of the Academies is conducted in line with each academy's individual Letting and Use Policy which includes a scale of charges.

Educational opportunities provided at TMET Academies during school hours are available to students regardless of ability to pay and that other activities are charged for in a fair and transparent way.