



Policy on Charging and Remissions for Academy Activities

Audience:	Parents Academy staff, particularly Headteachers and School Business Managers or Finance Officers Volunteers Local Governing Bodies Trustees Regional Boards
Approved:	Executive – July 2017
Other related policies:	Financial scheme of delegation, timetable and procedures
Policy owner:	Katherine Alexander, Director of Finance
Policy model:	<u>Principles</u> : this means REACH2 schools can use this policy in full <u>or</u> maintain their own policy, ensuring at the next opportunity that this aligns with REACH2 principles set out here
Review:	Every 3 years
Version number:	1.0 (July 2017)

REAch2 policy on charging and remissions for academy activities



At REAch2, our actions and our intentions as school leaders are guided by our Touchstones:

Integrity	We recognise that we lead by example and if we want children to grow up to behave appropriately and with integrity then we must model this behaviour
Responsibility	We act judiciously with sensitivity and care. We don't make excuses, but mindfully answer for actions and continually seek to make improvements
Inclusion	We acknowledge and celebrate that all people are different and can play a role in the REAch2 family whatever their background or learning style
Enjoyment	Providing learning that is relevant, motivating and engaging releases a child's curiosity and fun, so that a task can be tackled and their goals achieved
Inspiration	Inspiration breathes life into our schools. Introducing children to influential experiences of people and place, motivates them to live their lives to the full
Learning	Children and adults will flourish in their learning and through learning discover a future that is worth pursuing
Leadership	REAch2 aspires for high quality leadership by seeking out talent, developing potential and spotting the possible in people as well as the actual

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Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set out what charges can and cannot be made for activities in Schools in the REAch2 Academy Trust. The policy has been drawn up in accordance with Sections 449-462 of The Education Act 1996 which sets out the law regarding what charges can and cannot be made for activities in schools maintained by local authorities which also apply to the Academy Trust as set out in our Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

Circumstances where no charge is made

No charge will be made for:

Education in School

1. Education provided wholly or mainly during school hours.
2. Admission to school for children of compulsory school age.
3. Activities that are part of the entitlement curriculum¹ for all pupils, or are part of a prescribed examination syllabus, or part of Religious Education.
4. The supply of any materials, books and instruments or other equipment that are a requirement of the entitlement curriculum.

Transport

5. Transporting registered pupils to or from the academy premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
6. Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated.
7. Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the academy.
8. Transport provided in connection with an educational visit, which is part of the entitlement curriculum.

¹ The 'entitlement curriculum' is the learning activities and experiences that the academy will make available to all or any pupil that is provided wholly or mainly during school hours.

Residential visits

9. Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours.
10. Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the entitlement curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.

Music Tuition

11. Children learning to play musical instruments as part of the entitlement curriculum; or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education;
12. Cost associated with preparing a pupil for an examination².

Examination Fees

13. Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school³.

Circumstances where the school may charge parents

Optional Extras

Charges may be made for other activities known as 'optional extras'. Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge may be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment as follows:

Education

14. Activities that take place mainly or wholly out of school time if they are not part of the entitlement curriculum, not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupils are being prepared for at the academy and not part of religious education.
15. Materials used in practical subjects and project assignments provided parents have agreed in advance that they or the pupil wish to keep the finished product e.g. ingredients or materials.

² The academy does not currently enter pupils for any form of public music examination.

³ The only public examinations that the academy currently enters pupils for are the Key Stage 2 SATs.

Music Tuition

16. Musical instrument tuition provided to individual pupils or to a group of not more than four pupils if the teaching of music tuition is not part of the entitlement curriculum.

Transport

17. Transport that is not required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education.

Examination Fees

18. An examination that is independent of the academy curriculum, but the academy arranges for the pupil to take it.

Board and Lodgings

19. The cost of board and lodging for residential trips, even when taking place largely during school time. (Pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits are exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging).

Extended Schools

20. Extended day services offered to pupils, for example breakfast club, after school clubs, homework clubs.
21. Additional nursery sessions over and above the free entitlement provided by the school.

Community Facilities

22. Facilities used by the Local Community, for example holiday childcare or swimming pool sessions.

Voluntary Contributions

23. Although schools cannot charge for school time activities, voluntary contributions may be sought from parents for activities that supplement the normal academy curriculum.

Requests to parents for voluntary contributions will state that:

- there is no legal obligation to make a voluntary contribution;
- pupils will not be excluded through parents' inability or unwillingness to pay;
- pupils of parents who cannot contribute will not be treated any differently;

- where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible and there is no way to make up the shortfall, the activity will be cancelled.

24. Requests made for voluntary contributions made in respect of individual pupils must not include any element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

Remissions

25. Parents whose children are eligible for free school meals will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging of a residential trip.

26. The governing body may wish to remit in full or in part, the cost of other activities for parents in certain circumstances.

Supplementary Information

27. Parents can be invited to equip their child with items of personal equipment intended for use solely by their child such as Uniform, P.E. Kit, Calculators, and Pens etc.

Breakages and Damage

28. Where a student's behaviour results in damage to school property or equipment, parents may be asked to pay for the necessary repair or replacement. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at the academy's discretion.

Owed money and Debt Recovery

29. Where the school incurs material additional costs in recovering an outstanding debt then the school may decide to seek to recover such costs from the debtor. The debtor will be formally advised in writing that they will be required to pay the additional costs incurred by the school in recovering the debt.

30. If a response or payment is not received within a reasonable time, the school may seek to refer the matter to a Debt Recovery Agency (*The Thomas Higgins Partnership*) who will take action to recover the funds. All costs will be claimed against the parent/carer. The agency's commission may be as high as 20% and additional set up and collection fees will also be claimed.