

Brighter Academy Trust
Farringdon Community Academy
Charging and Remissions Policy



EXCELLENCE
— THROUGH —
ENDEAVOUR

1.0 Purpose and Scope

This policy is aimed at all administration, teaching and support staff, students and parents/carers. It sets out what charges will be levied for activities, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents/carers.

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. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

2.0 Activities for which charges cannot be made

2.1 The Local Governing Body recognises that legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- Admission applications.
- Education provided during Academy hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment).
- Education provided outside Academy 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 at the Academy, or part of religious education.
- Tuition for students learning to play musical instruments, if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the Academy.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the student has been prepared for it at the Academy.
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the Academy
- Supply teachers to cover those teachers who are absent from the Academy accompanying students on National Curriculum or examination courses.
- Transporting registered students to or from the Academy premises, where in the past, the local education authority has had a statutory obligation to provide transport.

- Transporting registered students to other premises where the Local Governing Body or in the past, the local education authority has arranged for students to be educated.
- Transport that enables a student to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the Academy.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

3.0 Activities for which charges may be made

3.1 The following activities will be charged by the Academy. The charge will not exceed the cost of the provision and will be proportional for each student.

- 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
- Community facilities

3.2 The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of the National Curriculum; syllabus for a prescribed public examination; or 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)
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as after-school clubs and supervised homework sessions)

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

Activity	Note
Board and lodging on residential trips	Information about activities and costs to be distributed to parents/carers well in advance of any trip, to enable financial planning by the family to take place
<p>The proportionate costs for any student on activities wholly or mainly outside Academy hours ('Optional extras') to meet the costs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel • Materials and equipment • Non teaching staff costs • Entrance fees • Insurance costs 	
Vocal and musical instrumental tuition	Changes to cover additional costs incurred by the Academy, beyond any element covered by public funding
Re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the Academy	
Examination fees where a student fails without good reason to sit an exam	After consultation with parents/carers
Any other education, transport or examinations fee unless charges are specifically prohibited	
Breakages, repairs and replacements as a result of damage caused wilfully or negligently by the student	Charges will be made after consultation with parents/carers and will not exceed total replacement/repair costs
Extra-curricular activities and clubs Charges to cover the additional costs incurred by the Academy, beyond any element covered by public funding	Any extended Academy activity Charges to cover the additional costs incurred by the Academy, beyond any element covered by public funding
Damage/ vandalism / loss to and of Academy property or services	Charges will be made after consultation with parents/carers and will not exceed total replacement /repair costs
Replacement of any damaged parts caused by students setting off fire alarms for a prank	A charge of £50 will be made to a student who deliberately triggers the fire alarm knowing there to be no fire.

Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where a student's parent wishes him/her to own them	To include, but not be limited to, stationery purchases, optional revision guides, specialist Art equipment and items made in technology lessons
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3.2 The Academy will make every effort to ensure that all information clearly defines costs and activities as simply and clearly as possible and is communicated well in advance, to enable families to plan for these charges.

4.0 Remissions

4.1 As far as its resources allow, the Academy will support students and their families to participate in the full range of activities which will be offered as part of the curricular and extra-curricular provision, where a voluntary parental contribution may be necessary, for any activity to be financially viable. This applies particularly to those students whose families receive support payments, such as those detailed below. While each case for support will be reviewed sympathetically, and in full confidence, the Academy itself has only limited resources at its disposal, and will seek to use these resources prudently to affect the greatest number of its students.

4.2 Students whose parents/carers are in receipt of the following support payments will, on addition to having a free Academy lunch entitlement, also be entitled to apply to the Academy for some remission of charges for board and lodging costs during residential and other Academy trips.

4.3 The relevant support payments are:

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 ;
- The guarantee 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)

5.0 Voluntary Contributions

5.1 The Head Teacher may ask parents/carers for a voluntary contribution to support Academy activities.

5.2 The terms of any request made to parents/carers will specify that it is a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge. In addition the following will be made clear to parents/carers:

- a) That the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent/carer is under no obligation to pay.
- b) That students at the Academy will not be treated differently whether or not their parents/carers have made any contribution in response to the request.
- c) The activity may not take place if insufficient contributions are made.

5.3 The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution will be delegated to the Business Manager, under the direction of the Head Teacher.

6.0 Lettings

6.1 The Academy will make its facilities available to outside users and the community at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges will be determined annually by the Local Governing Body. For users connected to the Academy, the charge will be based on the site staff overtime costs.

6.2 All potential Academy users will be made aware on application that they will be expected to use the Academy in accordance with the ethos of the sponsor, partners and the Academy.

7.0 Other charges

The Head Teacher, the Finance Committee or Local 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.

8.0 Academy Meals

The Local Governing Body will determine and publish annually the price to be charged for Academy meals.

9.0 Monitoring and Review

The Business Manager is responsible for monitoring all aspects of this policy. The policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner should it be required by a change in Academy procedures or Government regulation.