

Winterbourne Junior Girls' School



Charging and Remission Policy

Reviewed October 2023

To be reviewed annually

To be read in conjunction with: Debt Policy



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Charging and Remission Policy

1. Purpose of Policy

We believe that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (both curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered, whilst at the same time try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

Our school aims to:

- ◆ Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- ◆ Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made

2. Legislation and guidance

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.

3. Definitions

- ◆ **Charge:** A fee payable for specifically defined activities
- ◆ **Remission:** The cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Head Teacher. The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy. Monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the School Business Sub-Committee.

4.2 Head Teachers

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- ◆ Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- ◆ Notifying the Head Teacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the Head Teacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what we **cannot** charge for.



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5.1 Education

- ◆ Admission applications
- ◆ Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- ◆ Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- ◆ Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- ◆ Music which is studied as part of the normal school curriculum. (We do charge for individual or group music tuition: see below). Charges will only be made if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), or the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (SoundStart).
- ◆ Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National 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;
- ◆ Tuition for pupils 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 pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education
- ◆ Swimming lessons for children in KS2. These lessons occur in school time and form part of the National Curriculum
- ◆ Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- ◆ Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

5.2 Transport

- ◆ Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- ◆ Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- ◆ Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- ◆ Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

5.3 Residential visits

- ◆ 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
 - ◆ A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - ◆ Religious education
- ◆ Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit



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6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for.

6.1 Education

- ◆ Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- ◆ Optional extras (see below)); and the school may (at the Head Teacher's discretion) charge for damage to equipment or property caused by a child
- ◆ Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- ◆ Community facilities

6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment.

Optional extras include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - 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)
- ◆ Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- ◆ Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

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

- ◆ Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- ◆ The cost of buildings and accommodation
- ◆ Non-teaching staff
- ◆ Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including 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

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

Some clubs, such as Choir, are available free of charge to all pupils. Other clubs, such as Breakfast Club, offer free places to those children who are in receipt of Pupil Premium. If a



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teacher/coach, who is not a member of the school staff, runs or organises a club then parents or carers deal directly with the coach and costs for these clubs are set by the coach and charged directly to the parents or carers.

6.3 Music tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent. Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- ◆ If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum
- ◆ If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- ◆ For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

Peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. The School Music Service charges parents directly for the lessons and these monies are not handled by the school.

6.4 Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during school hours, which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Visits to museums
- ◆ Visits to farms
- ◆ Sporting activities which require transport expenses
- ◆ Outdoor adventure activities including residential trips
- ◆ Visits to the theatre
- ◆ Musical events

There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.



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8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- ◆ Breakfast Club, where the charge covers a proportion of the cost of food, activities, and staffing

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the governing board and reviewed in March each year. Parents will be informed of the charges for the coming year in the the summer term.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- ◆ Income Support
- ◆ Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- ◆ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ◆ Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ◆ The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- ◆ Child Tax Credit
- ◆ Working Tax Credit
- ◆ Universal Credit

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Office Manger monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher/School Business Manager every year.