

2014

Charging and Remissions Policy



FUTURES
Community College

Review Framework

The policy should be reviewed every three years.

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1. Admissions

There is no charge for admissions.

2. School meals

There is no charge for children who are entitled to free school meals. Students who are not entitled to free school meals will be able to select individually priced items from the daily menu.

3. Public examinations

There is no charge for examinations that are part of the curriculum and on the school's set examinations list, where students have been prepared for the examinations by the school. There is no charge for examinations that are not on the set list, but have been arranged by the school.

4. Activities that take place during school hours (this does not include the break in the middle of the school day)

There is no charge for activities during school hours with the exception of music tuition **[section 8]**

There is no charge for transport during school hours to school-organised activities.

We may charge for:

- books and materials that the parent wishes the child to keep (the cost will be made clear to the parents before charge)
- optional extras **[section 5]**
- music or vocal tuition **[section 8]**

5. Activities that take place outside of school hours (non-residential)

There is no charge for activities that take place outside of school hours when they are:

- part of the set curriculum, including sports games against other schools
- part of the syllabus for a public examination that the student is being prepared for by the school

5.1 Optional extras:

The school may charge for optional extras. Optional extras are:

- education provided outside of school time that is **not:**
 - a) part of the National Curriculum
 - b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the school
- examination entry fee(s) if the registered student has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- transport that is not taking the student to school or to other premises where the local authority or governing body has arranged for the student to be provided with education.
- board and lodging for a student on a residential visit.

5.2 The cost of optional extras

The Headteacher will decide when it is necessary to charge for optional activities.

Any charge made in respect of individual students will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of students participating.

In no circumstances will there be an element of subsidy required for any students wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge (**section 12**).

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
- 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 a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to pay the charges. The school will need to have the agreement of parents before organising the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

6. Activities that take place *partly* during school hours either on or off site

Where the majority of a non-residential activity takes place during school hours the charging of the activity will be the same as is outlined in **section 4**.

Where the majority of a non-residential activity takes place outside school hours the charging of the activity will be the same as is outlined in **section 5**.

Travelling time is included in time spent on activity.

7. Residential activities

The school will not charge for:

- 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 at the school, or part of religious education
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying students on a residential visit
- travel costs where the residential activity is classed as being within school hours
- residential activities that take place during school hours.

The school will charge for:

7.1 Board and lodging

When any visit has been organised by the school where there may be a cost for board and lodging,

parents will be informed of this before the visit takes place. We will charge anything up to the full cost of board and lodging on residential visits, whether it is classified as taking place during school hours or not. The charge will not exceed the actual cost. **Parents who can prove they are in receipt of certain benefits may be exempt from paying this cost** (see **section 11** for more guidance on remissions.)

7.2 Travel

Travel charges may apply when the residential activity takes place outside of school hours. The amount charged will be calculated to cover the unit cost per student. These charges may not apply to those students entitled to remissions, but no other students will be charged extra to cover those costs.

7.3 Activities

The school may charge for residential activities that fall **outside** of school hours (**see section 5**)

8. Music tuition within school hours

The school follows government legislation that states that all education provided during school hours must be free; however, music lessons are an exception to this rule.

Charges will be made if the teaching is **not** an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the student(s)

The school may charge for teaching requested by parents and delivered by specialist tutors given to either an individual student or groups of any appropriate size (provided that the size of the group is based on sound pedagogical principles) to play a musical instrument or to sing. The cost of these lessons may depend on the size and duration of the class as well as the type of instrument.

The school will not charge if the music tuition is part of the National Curriculum or public examination syllabus being followed by the student.

9. Extra-Curricular Activities

The school is dedicated to providing a well-rounded and extensive education for our students which includes:

- high-quality learning opportunities either side of the school day
- ways of intervening early when students are at risk of poor outcomes, e.g., by providing access to study support, parenting support or to more specialist services (such as health, social care or special educational needs services)
- ways of increasing student engagement
- ways of improving outcomes and narrowing gaps in outcomes between different groups of students.

The school may charge for extracurricular activities however the total charge will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise others.

10. Damage to property and breakages

Where school property has been wilfully damaged by a student or parent/carer the school will charge those responsible for some or all of the cost of repair or replacement.

Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged by a student, and the school has been charged, the school will charge some or all of the cost to those responsible.

11. Remissions and concessions

The school will give consideration to the remission of charges to parents or carers who receive the following support payments:

- Income Support
- Income based Job-seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.

Children of families who receive these payments are also entitled to free school meals. Parents who are eligible for the remission of charges will be dealt with confidentially.

The Headteacher will authorise the remission of charges.

The school may choose to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and students, and this will be determined by the Headteacher.

12. Voluntary contributions

The school, school governing body, or Local Authority may ask for voluntary contributions to the school for general funds and/or to fund activities that will enrich our student's education.

In any case where an activity cannot be afforded without voluntary funding, this will be made clear to the parents by the school. If the activity is cancelled all monies paid will be returned to parents.

The school is committed to ensuring fair access and treatment of all students, and this means ensuring that no child is excluded from an activity because the parents or carers of that child are unwilling or unable to pay. If there is insufficient funding for an activity, then it will be cancelled.

The identity of the child or parents of the child who did not want to make the payment, or could not make the payment, will not be disclosed under any circumstances.