



The Axe Valley Community College

Charging and Remissions Policy

Adopted by the Governing body on 20 October 2016.

The Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that there is clarity over those items which the school will provide free of charge and for those items where there may be a charge.

The policy has been informed by the LEA policy and the DfES guidance and complements the school's Educational Visits Policy

Definition

The school day is defined as: 8.50-1.10pm and 2.00-3.25pm. The lunch break does not form part of the school day.

Responsibilities

The headteacher will ensure that staff are familiar with and correctly apply the policy.

Policy statement

During the school day all activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum plus religious education will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It excludes charges made for teaching an individual pupil or groups of up to four pupils to play a musical instrument. Unless the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), we will make a charge. *(See below)*

There will be no charge for any activity that is an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination unless:

- *the examination is on the set list, but the pupil was not prepared for it at this school*
- *the examination is not on the set list but we arrange for the pupil to take it*
- *a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing body or the LEA originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.*

We reserve the right to make a charge for resits or remarks of public examinations or requests for the return of scripts.

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs. In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. [If insufficient funds are available it may be necessary to curtail or cancel activities]

From time to time we may invite a non-school based organisation such as theatre groups, providers of study skills workshops etc to arrange an activity during the school day. Such organisations may wish to charge parents, who may, if they wish, ask the headteacher to agree to their child being absent for that period.

Optional activities outside of the school day

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, for example theatre visits. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education nor are they part of an examination syllabus.

Education partly during the school day

If a non-residential activity happens partly inside the school day and partly outside of it, there will be no charge if most of the time to be spent on the activity falls within the school day. Conversely, if the bigger proportion of time spent falls outside of the normal school day, charges will be made. When such activities are arranged parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

Residentials

Charges will be made for board and lodging, except for pupils whose parents are in receipt of eligible benefits. However, the college will endeavour to secure funds from outside agencies and charities to support students with financial difficulties.

Minibus

Only pupils of the school, school staff or parents may be charged for travel in the minibus. Charges made will cover only actual costs incurred, including depreciation; the service should not make a profit for the school.

Calculating charges

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can't or won't. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising.

Parents who would qualify for support are those who are in receipt of eligible benefits, or have other financial difficulties.

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

Music Tuition

In cases of hardship the governors will consider in their absolute discretion the remission of fees (either in full or in part) for those pupils who they consider will benefit from such tuition.

Eligible benefits

Income Support; Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; or Child Tax Credit (providing that they do not also receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, assessed by The Inland Revenue).

<p>This policy recognises and is applied in accordance with the College's policies for Safeguarding and Child Protection, Teaching & Learning, PSHE, Assessment, Equal Opportunities, Health & Safety and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.</p>

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