

Charging & Remissions Policy

February 2016



Springwest Academy	
Person(s) Responsible:	Principal
Status:	Non-Statutory
Date Approved:	February 2016
Date of Review:	3 years

Introduction

Education legislation demands that schools, subject to certain exceptions, may not charge for education provided during school hours. However, schools are permitted to charge for other items and experiences provided to the pupils. Schools may also invite voluntary contributions to help support these provisions. Schools have a duty to inform parents on low incomes and in receipt of certain benefits that support is available towards certain costs when they are being asked to make contributions eg towards school visits.

Objectives and targets

The governing body of Springwest Academy has set up this policy for certain activities which take place in the school. The purpose of this policy is to clarify which items and experiences that the school provides may have a levy charged upon them, how much of the cost the school expects parents to be charged and who will be offered support to pay for items and experiences for their children. This charging and remission policy is implemented within the letter of the law, and also embracing the spirit of it. It will be no less generous than the LA's policy.

Action plan

Where visits are arranged either as an integral part of a particular syllabus or to enhance pupils' learning experience, parents may be asked to contribute towards the cost. However, legislation states that a pupil should not be debarred from a visit if a parent does not wish to contribute. In cases of family hardship, parents may apply, in confidence, to the Principal for exemption from such contributions. However, we hope that parents will realise that there comes a point when a trip is not viable if sufficient contributions are not forthcoming.

There may be occasions when an organisation other than the local authority (LA) or the school governing body arranges an activity during school hours, and parents want their children to take part. Such organisations may charge parents for the services provided, so any parents who do not wish to pay so that their child can attend must seek permission for their child's absence.

We believe that a school should give pupils as many varied learning experiences as possible and we shall do our utmost to ensure that all our pupils have the opportunity to benefit from such experiences. Parents who are in receipt of the following benefits are exempt from paying charges.

- Universal credit in prescribed circumstances (the government plans to prescribe these circumstances when universal credit is fully rolled out).

- Income support.
- Income-based jobseekers allowance (IBJSA).
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child tax credit, provided that Working tax credit is not also received and the family's income as assessed by HMRC does not exceed certain limits.
- The guarantee element of state pension credit.
- An income-related employment and support allowance.

For activities such as music tuition, field trips, concert and theatre visits, the table below indicates the school's policy on which activities will be charged for.

Activity	Comment
Individual instrumental music tuition that is over and above the national curriculum, and/or an approved examination syllabus.	A charge will be made per lesson. This will be reviewed when the charges made to the school by the music service increase. Parents in receipt of certain benefits could be eligible for a reduction of fees. The first child in the family pays full fees; the second and subsequent child will pay half fees. Any examination fees are paid by parents.
Transport to work experience	Parents will pay directly (except stated pupils where the statement refers to transport).
Activities outside school time not related to statutory duties.	Charges will be levied.
Board and lodging on residential visits.	Parents are to be charged, except in cases of statutory remission where families receive benefits.
Rescrutiny of exam results.	Parents to pay all charges.
Exam entry for prescribed exam for which pupils have not been prepared by school.	Parents to pay all charges.
Entry for an exam which is not on prescribed list where preparation takes place outside school hours.	A charge will be made.
Recovery of wasted exam fees.	Parents to be charged.
Educational visits and field trips.	Parents will be asked for a voluntary contribution.

Monitoring and evaluation

This policy will be monitored and evaluated in the light of changes to legislation and comments received from parents and other interested parties.