

# Friars Multi Academy Trust

## Charging and Remissions Policy

### **STATUTORY POLICY**

Reviewed by: Finance, HR & Estates Sub-Committee - February 2020  
Approved by Board of Directors: March 2020  
Presented to Friars Governing Body: May 2020  
Next review date: February 2023  
Policy Owner: Chief Finance Officer

<b>Glossary</b>
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The term '**School**' is used as standard to mean the educational establishment that is adopting this policy.

The term '**Headteacher**' is used to refer to the person with overall day-to-day responsibility of the **School**.

**Directors** are the Trustees of the Board.

**LGB** is the Local Governing Body.

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## 1. Aims

Our Trust/Schools aim 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. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements.

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

## 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 Trust Board

The Trust Board has overall responsibility for approving the Charging and Remissions Policy, but the Finance Sub-Committee has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

### 4.2 Head Teacher

The Head Teacher of the Schools within the Trust are 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 individual schools will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

### 4.4 Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers 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:

### **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.
- 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.

## 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).
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances.
- Certain early years provision.
- 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. The following are optional extras:

- 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.
- The full costs of re-sits of prescribed public examinations where the school has decided there are educational reasons for not entering a student:
  - If a student has not regularly attended the lessons for a particular examination subject, the examination fee may be requested.
  - If, without a medical certificate explaining the reason, a student fails to complete examination requirements for any public examination for which the school has paid an entry fee. The school may seek to recover the fee from the parent/carer.
  - There may be a charge for an examination entry where there is a request from a parent/carer for additional subject entries to be made which are not supported by 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)
- Cost (full or partial at the establishment's discretion) of breakages caused by students. A charge is unlikely to be made for accidental breakages, unless the student was not following previously stated safety procedures. The recovery of the full cost of deliberate breakages or vandalism will be sought by the school.
- Cost of providing a student a snack at social time

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.

### **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

### **6.4 Residential visits**

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

### **6.5 Holidays during term time**

Students accompanying parents/carers on holiday or family events during term time maybe charged in line with government guidelines. This remains at the discretion of the Head Teacher. All such absences will be classed as unauthorised.

## **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:

The school may ask for voluntary contributions for:

- School Trips
- Sports Activities
- Cost of essential ingredients or materials for practical subjects

This list is not exhaustive.

**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 may be cancelled.**

## **8. Activities we charge for**

The school will charge for the following activities:

- Non currently other than those activities identified in section 6.2.

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the Executive Head Teacher in line with this policy. Parents will be informed of the charges for the coming year in advance.

## **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 Head Teacher and will depend on the activity in question.

Students in receipt of Pupil Premium or Looked After Children may be exempt from some charges or requests for voluntary contributions. The Trust runs a £250.00 annual voucher scheme. It may be possible to offset some of the charges against it. This decision is at the discretion of the Head Teacher on an individual case-by-case basis.

Charges or requests for voluntary contributions will be reviewed on an individual case-by-case basis if the need arises. This decision is at the discretion of the Head Teacher.

### **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 **total** 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 (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).