Charging and Remissions Policy

Policy type	Ormiston SWB Academy
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Approved by	
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Aims

Ormiston SWB Academy 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.

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.

Definitions

- Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Principal. The governing body also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

In our Academy, responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy has been delegated to the Principal and the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the Senior Leadership Team.

The Principal

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

Staff

Our staff are responsible for:

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

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

Parents

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

Where charges cannot be made?

Below we set out **what the school cannot charge for**:

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

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

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

Where charges can be made?

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

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 and at the parent's request
- Community facilities

Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, the school 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
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority/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.

Music tuition

The school 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
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

Residential visits

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

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:

- Academy trips
- Sports activities/clubs

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.

Activities this Academy charges for

The Academy will charge for the following activities:

- After-school clubs and activities where a charge is needed for the activity to take place and attendance is voluntary

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the governing board and reviewed in September of each year. Parents will be informed of the charges for the coming year in as soon as they have been reviewed.

- Transport

Government legislation makes it clear that there are expected 'statutory walking distances' for schools and academies. For students of secondary school age this is set at 3 miles from home. A charge for students that live within 3 miles, who wish to continue using transport will be implemented.

Remissions

In some circumstances the Academy 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 body and will depend on the activity in question.

Remissions for residential visits

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

- Universal credit in prescribed circumstances
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- 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 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,105
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008

Monitoring arrangements

The Operations Team monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.
This policy will be reviewed by the Operations Team every year. At every review, the policy will be approved by Principal and Governing Body.