



CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

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Charging and Remissions Policy

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1. Introduction

Hurst Education Trust (HET) is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils, regardless of financial circumstances. This policy sets out when parents/carers of children at an academy within the Trust will be asked to pay for school activities, when they will be asked to make a voluntary contribution to costs and when they will not be asked to pay or contribute.

Our schools provide many opportunities for children to enrich and enhance their experience. These include both on-site and off-site learning, residential activities, environmental studies, sports, physical and cultural activities, business visits and adventurous activities. For many of these activities to take place it is necessary to request voluntary contributions. There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay. However, if the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then it will be cancelled.

2. Aims

The Trust 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 and will not be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

3. 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 to 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 also incorporates [The Charges for Music Tuition \(England\) Regulations 2007](#)

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

4. Definitions

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

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 The Trust

The Trust has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy.

5.2. The Local Governing Board

The Local Governing Board (LGB) has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

5.3 Headteachers

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

5.4 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

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

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

5.5 Parents/carers

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

6. Where charges cannot be made

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

6.1 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/carer
- 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

6.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority (LA) 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

6.3 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, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupils on a residential visit

7. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

7.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carer wishes the child to own them
- Optional extras (see section 6.2)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities (for example, holiday childcare or swimming pool sessions)
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school **and** the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus

7.2 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
- 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 before and 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/carers 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 to participation in the optional extra, and a willingness to meet the charges is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

7.3 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/carer.

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

7.4 Residential visits

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

Where a residential visit forms part of the National Curriculum, we will not exclude a pupil because their parent or carer cannot, or refuses to, pay or make a contribution to the board and lodging charge. We will consider if the costs can be covered from within the budget or by fundraising, and seek to reach an agreement with the parent/carers so that the pupil can still take part. In some cases, it may be necessary to cancel the visit.

When we inform parents/carers about a forthcoming visit, we will make it clear that parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of certain benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging.

8. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school are able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities for the benefit of the school or any school activities that would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include:

- Educational Visits
- Visitors
- Forest School
- Swimming
- Sports activities
- The cost of materials used to produce an item which the child will take home.

There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay. All pupils will have an equal chance to participate in an activity or visit regardless of whether their parents or carers contribute.

Our procedures for allocating places on school visits will be set out clearly to parents/carers.

When requesting voluntary contributions we will make it clear to parents/carers at the outset if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions. We will also make it clear that contributions are not compulsory. We will not send communications when requesting contributions in a way that may make parents/carers feel pressured to pay, for example by sending colour-coded letters or direct debit or standing order mandates.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit, and it cannot be funded from other sources, then it will be cancelled. This will be made clear to parents/carers

9. Activities we charge for

The school may charge for the following activities:

- Breakfast club
- Wrap-around care
- After-school clubs
- Sports clubs

10. 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 governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

10.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Universal Credit (regardless of annual net income)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Children eligible for free school meals (FSM), including under the expanded criteria from September 2026, will also be eligible to have the cost of board and lodging remitted on residential visits. This includes parents/carers whose child is already known to the school to be currently eligible for FSM.

Parents/carers who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) may be able to receive FSM for their child, subject to maximum income thresholds. Where this is the case, they will also be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits.

Where a pupil becomes newly eligible for FSM after their parent/carer has already paid for board and lodging on a residential visit, we will refund the amount paid provided their child's entitlement is in effect before the visit takes place.

10.2. General

There may be other circumstances in which cases of family hardship make it difficult to take part in particular activities for which a charge is made. Should this be the case, parents/carers are invited to apply in confidence to the Headteacher who may come to an agreed arrangement.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The Headteacher monitors charges and remissions and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Trust every three years.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Trust Board.

Document History:

Charging and Remissions Policy	
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Date Reviewed	Amendments Made	Date Model Approved by Trust Board	Next Review Due
Oct 2023	New Trust Policy	3 rd October 2023	October 2026
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