



BLUE COAT C E (AIDED) INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS' FEDERATION

Charging and remissions policy

Date agreed by Governors:

1.7.26

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1. Aims

Our school 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

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 to 462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England.

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 governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Executive Headteacher.

The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

4.2 Executive Headteacher

The Executive Headteacher is 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 headteacher of any specific circumstances that they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

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

4.4 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to notify staff or the headteacher 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/carers
- 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 (LA) has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when they have 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, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carers 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
- 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

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
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the LA 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 [that are not part of the Universal Government funded breakfast provision] 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 is necessary for the provision of an optional extra that 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/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

Charges will be made for music consumables, if purchased through the Federation, eg. clarinet reeds.

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 EYFS Chargeable extras

Description	Unit	Unit price	Line total
Free entitlement hours –15 hours per week	Weekly	Free	Free
Additional hours purchased – 15 hours per week	Weekly	£5.86 per hour	£87.90 per week
Lunchtime meal – bookable through AIP/Sodexo	Bookable weekly	£2.53 per day	£
Consumables (for example, nappies and sun cream) No charge made – parents to provide their own			£
Additional voluntary services (for example - trips)	Ad Hoc	Ad Hoc	£

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/carers to fund activities that would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include: school trips, specialised enrichment visitors or experiences, and sports activities.

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 then it will be cancelled.

8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- **After school clubs and sports clubs**
- **Breakages:** parents may be asked to pay for the cost or contribute towards the cost of replacing broken windows, musical instruments, and ICT equipment, lost books etc, where this was as a result of pupils' behaviour.
- **Freedom of Information Act – paying for information** – single copies of information covered by this publication are provided free unless states otherwise in the Scheme of Information available under the Freedom of Information Act. If a parental request means that we have to do a lot of photocopying or printing, or pay a large postage charges, or is for a priced items such as a printed publication, the Federation will inform the parent of the cost before fulfilling the request.
- **Passport Applications** – a charge of £15 for an individual or £30 per family applies for validation of passport applications and certification of photographs.

➤ **Late collection fees**

➤ If a pupil is late being collected, a member of staff will verbally remind you of the timings of the school day. On the second occasion a “late collection” letter will be issued, advising that a charge of £10.00 will be issued should the pupil be collected late for a third time and every time thereafter.

➤ **Administration costs** – please note that the Federation’s duty to provide free administrative support applies only to benefit applications relating to children. Requests for administrative letters or documentation for adult-related benefit claims or immigration purpose’s fall outside this statutory obligation.

A charge of £10 applies for letter requested by parents/guardians for

- Home office correspondence
- Benefit claims not directly related to the child’s education

Charges will be advised in advance, and payment must be received before the letter is issued.

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the governing board and reviewed each year. Parents/carers will be informed of the charges for the coming year in each year.

➤ **Private use of Federation facilities** – charges for the use of private facilities by members of staff, for example private telephone calls, reprographics etc:

Description		Cost
Telephone Calls	Local calls	5p per minute
	National calls	8p per minute
Photocopying	A4	10p per copy
	A4 2-sided	15p per copy
	A3	20p per copy
	A3 2-sided	30p per copy
Laminating	A4	30p per sheet
	A3	60p per sheet

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 governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits (Pupil Premium)

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

➤ 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 you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Federation Business Manager monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team annually

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body