



BORDESLEY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

CHARGING AND REMISSION POLICY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND VISITS

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CHARGING AND REMISSION POLICY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND VISITS

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Trustees of Bordesley MAT recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs and visits, can make towards a student's education.

The Board of Trustees aim to promote and provide such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the students of the school and as additional optional activities.

The Board of Trustees is very keen to ensure that ALL students are included and given every opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities but recognise that there will be occasions when parents will be asked to make a financial contribution to the cost of running these additional activities. This policy is to help parents understand when charges can or cannot be made.

Statutory requirements: As part of the Education Act 1996, the Board of Trustees is required to keep under review a Charging and Remissions Policy. Parents have a right to ask for this information and a summary must be included on the school website.

The schools within the Bordesley Multi Academy Trust comprise of Holyoakes Field First School, Birchensale Middle School, Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre and Woodfield Middle School.

For the purpose of this document:

- a) The Bordesley Multi Academy Trust is referred to as The Trust;
- b) School refers to all Schools within the Trust;
- c) Pupils or Students refers to all pupils or students being educated or on site at any one of the schools within the Trust

A copy of this policy will be available on the Bordesley MAT website. Also, a link from each school's website will direct you to this policy.

CHARGING AND REMISSION POLICY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND VISITS

1. Education

Trusts, school governing bodies and local authorities cannot charge for:

- an admission application to any maintained school;
- 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 or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- tuition for students learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;

Trusts, school governing bodies and local authorities can charge for:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes their child to own them;
- music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 5) where parents have opted to pay for private music tuition.

Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge can be made for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment eg;

- education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - a) part of the National Curriculum
 - b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the school; or
 - c) part of religious education, examination entry fee(s) if the registered student has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;
- transport that is not required to take the student to school or to other premises where the local authority/governing body have arranged for the student to be provided with education; and
- board and lodging for a student on a residential visit.

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

2. Voluntary Contributions

Nothing in legislation prevents a trust, school governing body or local authority from asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the headteacher should make this clear to parents at the outset. The headteacher will also make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution and that students will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request or invitation.

No child will be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, then the Headteacher will make the decision whether to cancel the activity.

3. Residential Visits

Schools cannot charge for:

- 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, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;

Schools can charge for:

- board and lodging and the charge must not exceed the actual cost*. (*Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging)
 - a) Income Support (IS);
 - b) Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
 - c) support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
 - d) Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £18,725 (2023 to 2024 rate) as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs the guarantee element of State Pension Credit; and
 - e) an income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

4. Music Tuition

Although the law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, music lessons are an exception to this rule. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced a regulation-making power which allowed the Department for Education to specify circumstances where charging can be made for music tuition. These, provide students with greater access to vocal and instrumental tuition.

Charges may be made for teaching either an individual student or groups of any appropriate size (provided that the size of the group is based on sound pedagogical principles) to play a musical instrument or to sing. Parents are requested to contact the Head of Music for more information regarding the remissions charges for music tuition.

5. Other Charges

The Headteacher, Governing Body, or Trust may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services e.g. for providing a copy of an OFSTED report.