



A Specialist Technology College

CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY

Update June 2016

Charging and remissions policy for South Shropshire Academy Trust

Introduction

We want all our pupils to have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities, both on and off site, within and outside the curriculum, regardless of their family's financial means. This policy sets out our school approach to charging and remissions, and is informed by local authority guidance. In doing this our intention is to ensure transparency in setting charges and ensure all children are able to access all the provision on offer.

This policy does not apply to charges made and determined by other organisations offering activities and services on the school premises.

1	Admissions	No charge will be made for admission.
2	School meals	No charge will be made for pupils entitled to free school meals.
		We will charge all pupils not entitled to free school meals an amount determined by Shire Services, as appropriate.
3	Public examinations	No charge will be made for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list and the pupil has been prepared at the school.
		The school will charge the entry fee if the parents request a re-sit. However, should the re-sit mark be higher than the initial exam a refund will be granted.
		No charge shall be made if the school requests a re-mark.
4	Activities for pupils that take place during school hours – curriculum	No charge will be made for curriculum activities provided during school hours (with the exception of music tuition – see section 8).
		No charge will be made for transport during school hours e.g. sporting fixtures.
		A charge will be made to cover the cost of ingredients or materials where parents/carers have confirmed in advance that they wish to own the finished product.
5	Activities for pupils that take place outside school hours (non residential)	No charge will be made for an activity that takes place outside school hours when it is: a) a necessary part of the curriculum b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at school c) part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education
		Optional extras: We may charge for some other activities that take place outside school hours. The Principal will decide which activities we make a charge for. The levels of charges (including any remissions) will be set annually on the recommendation of the Principal and the Finance committee. Where we make a charge, the total collected will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to

		<p>subsidise the cost to other pupils by paying more than an amount equal to the total cost of the activity divided by the number of pupils participating.</p> <p>Costs we can legally recover are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra b) non teaching staff c) any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra d) transport to an activity outside school hours
6	Activities that take place partly during school hours either on or off site (non residential)	<p>Where the majority of time spent on a non-residential activity is within school hours, we must treat the activity as if it is fully within school hours and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 4.</p> <p>If the majority of the time spent on a non-resident activity is outside school hours, we must treat the activity as if it happens fully outside school hours, and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 5.</p>
7	Residentials	<p>Residentials are classified as being within school hours if the number of school sessions missed by the pupils is at least 50% of the number of days spent on the trip.</p> <p>Board and lodging: We will charge pupils an amount up to the full cost of board and lodging on residential whether it is classified as taking place within or outside school hours except where pupils are legally entitled to remission. In such cases no charge will be made for board and lodging. (See section 11 of guidance for details of legal entitlements to remissions).</p> <p>Travel: If the residential is classified as being within school hours, no charge will be made for travel costs (legal requirement), although, a voluntary contribution may be sought. Where the residential is classified as being outside school hours, a charge will be made for travel to cover the unit cost per pupil other than those entitled to remissions (but no paying pupil will be required to subsidise the cost of non-paying pupils).</p> <p>Activities on residential: If the residential is classified as being within school hours no charge can legally be made for the educational activities provided. If the residential is classified as being outside school hours a charge will be made for the educational activities provided (see section 5).</p>
8	Music tuition within school hours	No charge will be made if the music tuition is an essential part of the national curriculum or a public examination syllabus being

		<p>followed by the pupil (including instrument hire, music books etc).</p> <p>No charge will be made for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours for children in care (including instrument hire, music books etc).</p> <p>We will charge for all other instrumental and vocal tuition requested by parents and delivered by the Music Service within school hours, whether offered to an individual or group of pupils. Charges will be determined by the head teacher and Music Service and may vary depending on size of group, length of lesson and type of instrument.</p> <p>Where we make a charge for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours we will remit charges for pupils on free school meals as defined in section 11 of guidance in order to ensure specialist music tuition is accessible and affordable for all children.</p>
9	Damage to property and breakages	<p>We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to willful damage or breakage of school property. This will be determined by the Head teacher.</p> <p>We may seek to recover some or all the costs incurred due to willful damage or breakage of property belonging to a third party where the school has been charged. This will be determined by the Head teacher.</p>
10	Remissions and concessions	<p>We will comply with legal requirements for remissions as outlined throughout this document.</p> <p>We may choose to subsidise, in full or part, charges for certain activities and pupils, as determined by the Governing Body, advised by the Head teacher. The circumstances in which concessions are applied will be reviewed yearly.</p>
11	Voluntary contributions	<p>We may in certain circumstances invite parents to make a voluntary contribution towards activities that are exempt from charging.</p> <p>Where we do ask for voluntary contributions, we will make it clear that children of parents who choose not to contribute will not be treated differently from those who do. No pupil will be excluded from the activity if their parents do not contribute.</p> <p>If an activity cannot go ahead without sufficient voluntary contributions, this will be explained to parents when the contribution is requested. If the activity has to be cancelled due to insufficient funds, all monies received will be returned to parents.</p>