

Trinity School

Charging and Remissions Policy



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1. Introduction & Aims

Trinity School Sevenoaks believes that all students should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits.

The school recognises that legislation provides academies with the discretion to charge for optional extras provided wholly or mainly out of school hours and to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of a school, or in support of any activity organised by a school, whether during or outside school hours.

This policy identifies activities for which:

- Charges will not be made
- Charges will be made
- Charges may be waived

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 449-462 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.

3. Definitions

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

4. Where charges cannot be made

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

4.1 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 timetabled curriculum the student is following
- 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



4.2 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 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

4.3 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 schools published 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

5. Where charges can be made

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

5.1 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
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

5.2 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 students timetabled 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 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.

5.3 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.

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 students timetabled 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

5.4 Residential visits

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

6. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 4 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:

- Geography, History and or MFL field trips
- Sporting events or fixtures

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.

7. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- Hiring of school premises – prices are published on the school’s website and reviewed annual in line with competitive market rates and our community use agreement
- Wilful damage, neglect or loss of school property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials, ICT equipment). The charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Headmaster may decide.

8. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 5 and 7 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Headmaster and will depend on the activity in question.

8.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents 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:

- › 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 that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family’s annual gross income must be in line with HMRC current criteria)
- › Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- › Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family’s income must be in line with HMRC eligibility criteria – after tax and not including any benefits)

8.2 The Headmaster may remit in full or part charges in respect of a student, if he feels it is reasonable in the circumstances.



8.3 the Headmaster may decide not to levy charges in respect of a particular activity if he feels it is reasonable in the circumstances.

9. Trip Surplus

In the event the trip makes a surplus, refunds over £20 per pupil will be made to the parent/carer. Anything less than £20 will be used to cover the cost of trip administration.

10. Monitoring arrangements

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

This policy will be reviewed by the Board every 2 years.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Resources (including Finance) Committee.