



ELSTON HALL Multi-Academy Trust

Charging & Remissions Policy



Policy Reviewed:
June 2018

Next Review:
3 yearly (or sooner if any significant changes require policy amendment)

Charging and Remissions and Arrears Policy for Parents / Carers

Introduction

We want all our children 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.

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. The policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

Where 'parent' is referred to this will include adults with a responsibility for the pupil.

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 to any school within the Trust.

2. School meals

No charge will be made for children entitled to free school meals.

We will charge all children not entitled to free school meals an amount determined by the Finance, General Purposes & Audit Committee of the Trust, as appropriate, which will include discounted/flexible charges for meals.

Where arrears amount in excess of £30, the Head of School may refuse provision of a school meal until arrears have been paid or a suitable payment arrangement has been agreed with school.

3. Milk

It is a legal requirement to provide 1/3 pint of free milk per day to children under the age of 5 attending an approved day care facility for 2 hours or more per day, until the term after their 5th birthday.

Children aged 5 and over who are entitled to free school meals, will also be entitled to receive free milk.

For children aged 5 and over, who are not in receipt of free school meals, will be charged termly (charge currently determined by the LA) which is payable at the beginning of each term.

4. Uniform

Items of school uniform may be purchased directly from school. Items will be sold at cost price, a small addition to cover administration costs may be levied at the discretion of the Trust Business Manager. Uniform prices are available from school Reception.

5. Breakfast and After School Club Charges

We will charge families for any childcare offered to children before and after school, with the level of fees and any remissions to be determined by the CEO / Business Manager and approved by the Finance, General Purposes & Audit Committee.

Payment should be made in advance or on the day that the child attends the club.

Where instances of non-payment occur, club staff reserve the right to refuse entry until payment is made or until a suitable payment arrangement is agreed with school.

Charges and opening times for club can be obtained from each School Reception.

6. Lettings

The school facilities may be hired and subject to a 'letting fee'. Details of fees will be held and administered at individual schools.

7. Public examinations

No charge will be made for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list and the child has been prepared at the school.

Where supported by school, we will not charge parents for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list, but the child was not prepared for it at school.

Where supported by school, we will not charge parents the entry fee if the examination is not on the set list, but school has arranged for the child to take it.

We may charge parents the examination fee if a child fails, without good reason, to complete the requirements of a public examination where the school originally paid the entry fee. This will be decided by the CEO / Associate Headteacher.

8. Activities for children that take place during school hours

No charge will be made for activities (i.e swimming) provided during school hours (with the exception of music tuition).

A charge will be made to cover the cost of ingredients or materials where parents/guardians have confirmed in advance that they wish to own the finished product.

Where the majority of time spent on a non-residential activity is within school hours, we must treat the activity as if it happens fully within school hours.

9. Activities for children that take place out of school

No charge will be made for an activity that takes place out of school when it is:

- A necessary part of the curriculum
- Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the child is being prepared for at the school
- Part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education

If the majority of the time spent on a non-residential activity is outside school hours, we must treat the activity as if it happens fully outside school hours.

Optional extras

We may charge for some other activities that take place outside school hours. The Head of School will decide which activities we make a charge for. The levels of charge (including any remissions) will be set annually on the recommendation of the Head of School.

Where we make a charge, the total collected will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise the cost to other children by paying more than an amount equal to the total cost of the activity divided by the number of children participating.

Costs we can legally recover are as follows:

- a) Teaching and Non-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) Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- c) Transport to an activity outside school hours

10. Residentials

Residentials are classified as being within school hours if the number of school sessions missed by the children is at least 50% of the number of half days spent on the trip.

We will charge children an amount up to the full cost of board and lodging on residentials whether it is classified as taking place within or outside school hours. With the exception of those entitled to remission (as determined by the Head of School).

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 child other than those entitled to remissions (but no paying child will be required to subsidise the cost of non-paying children).

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.

11. Music Tuition

No charge will be made for the music tuition, if it is an essential part of the national curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by children (including instrument hire, music books etc).

We will charge for all other instrumental and vocal tuition requested by parents and delivered by specialist tutors within school hours, whether offered to an individual or group of pupils.

Charges will be determined by the Head of School in liaison with the Trust Business Manager and approved by the Finance, General Purposes & Audit Committee. Charges may vary depending on size of group, length of lesson and type of instrument.

Where we make a charge for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours we will remit charges for children on free school meals as well as in certain other circumstances (e.g. for siblings) in order to ensure specialist music tuition is accessible and affordable for all children.

12. Damage to property and breakages

We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of school property. This will be determined by the Head of School.

We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of property belonging to a third party where the school has been charged. This will be determined by the Head of School.

13. Remissions and concessions

We will comply with legal requirements for remissions as outlined throughout this document, for pupils defined as eligible.

We may choose to subsidise, in full or part, charges for certain activities and pupils, as determined by the Head of School.

14. Voluntary contributions

We may in certain circumstances invite parents to make voluntary contribution towards activities that are exempt from charging. 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 child will be excluded from the activity if their parents do not contribute.

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.