

In partnership to
Educate, Nurture & Empower



Abbey Multi Academy Trust

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Charging and Remissions Policy

Date Policy Approved: 01 April 2020

Approving Body: Abbey MAT Board of Trustees

Next Review Date: April 2023

Previous Review Date: November 2016

Charging and Remissions Policy

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for activities, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents.

Responsibilities

Abbey Multi Academy Trust (Abbey MAT) is responsible for determining the content of this Policy and the Academy Principals are responsible for its implementation. Any determination with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the Principal/Headteacher and the Local Governing Body of the Academy.

Charges cannot be made for:

Abbey MAT recognises that legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- 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 pupil is being prepared for at the Academy, or part of religious education.
- Financial contribution to any part of the admissions process.
- Tuition for pupils 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 pupil is being prepared for at the Academy, or part of religious education.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the Academy.
- Examination resits if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit at the Academy.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours.
- Education provided on any trip 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 pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.

- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from the Academy accompanying pupils on a residential trip.
- Transporting registered pupils to or from Academy premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the Local Governing Body or local education 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 Academy.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational trip.

Charges may be made for:

- Board and lodging on residential visits (not to exceed the costs).
- The proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside school hours ('optional extras') to meet the costs for: travel, materials and equipment, non-teaching staff costs, entrance fees, insurance costs, where the activity is not:
 - part of the national curriculum
 - part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the academy, or
 - part of religious education
- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them.
- Vocal and musical instrument tuition (the level of charge to be decided annually by the Local Governing Body).
- Re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the Academy.
- Examination fees where a pupil fails without good reason to sit the exam or meet its requirements.
- Any other education, transport or examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school.
- Any other education, transport or examination fee unless charges are specifically prohibited.
- Breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils.

- Extra-curricular activities and Academy clubs.
- Any extended school activity.
- Damage/vandalism/loss to and of Academy property.

Remission

Children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of charges for board and lodging costs during residential school trips. The relevant support payments are:

- Income Support
- 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)
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1998
- Child Tax Credit, providing that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by HMRC) does not exceed £16,190 (Financial Year 2019/20).
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

Voluntary Contributions

Parents will be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following:

- Any trip or activity, inside or outside of school hours, which could not otherwise go ahead without the voluntary contribution.

The terms of any requests made to parents will specify that it is a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge. In addition, the following will be made clear to parents:

- a) that the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay; and

- b) that registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the Principal/Headteacher.

Voluntary contributions will be used:

- to subsidise pupils from low income families
- to cover the cost of travel for accompanying teachers
- where parents have indicated in advance their willingness to purchase the product (e.g. in technology or creative arts subjects)
- to meet part of the cost of any proposed trip or activity

School Meals (if delegated)

The Local Governing Body will determine and publish annually the price to be charged for school meals.