

GUCS Charging and Remissions Policy 1 V2 Adopted October 2016 Review October 2021
Grendon Underwood Combined School
Charging and Remissions Policy for Educational Activities

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs and visits, can make towards a pupils education. Grendon School aims to promote and provide such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities.

The relevant statutory provisions are contained in Chapter III of Pt VI of the Education Act 1996. This requires the Governing Body to determine and keep under review a Charging and Remissions Policy. Parents have a right to ask for this information and a summary must be included in the school prospectus. The school must also comply with the Buckinghamshire County Council Scheme for Financing Schools, Finance Section F7

Charges for Educational Activities.

There are two types of financial contributions for which parents can be asked in relation to educational activities:

- Voluntary contributions
- Permitted charges

They have different limitations as set out below.

Voluntary Contributions:

There is no limit to the level of voluntary contribution that may be asked for or any restriction on the way in which it is used. Voluntary contributions therefore can be used to subsidise parents of pupils who are unwilling or unable to pay the charges made and to pay the travel and accommodation costs of accompanying teachers or adults.

Letters requesting a voluntary contribution for an activity must indicate that there is no obligation to contribute and that pupils 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 it will be cancelled with contributions being refunded in part or full where committed expenditure has been met by parent contributions. This will be made clear to parents. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will still be given an equal chance to go on the visit.

Permitted Charges:

Permitted charges are a direct request to cover certain costs involved with a school activity or visit. No charge can be made in respect of education provided during school hours (which excludes the midday break). Furthermore, no charge can be made for any education provided outside of school hours if this forms part of the syllabus for a public exam, or as part of the National Curriculum or religious education (non-chargeable education). A charge may be made however for board and lodgings on any residential educational visit (subject to the provisions of the LEA and school's remissions policy).

1 Materials & Textbooks

Where a pupil or parent wishes to retain items produced as a result of art, craft and design, or design and technology, a charge may be levied for the cost of the material used.

In the case of Food Technology, pupils usually provide their own ingredients, but if the pupil forgets, the school provides the ingredients and levies a charge. Textbooks are provided free of charge, but in some subjects, additional revision guides are available, for which a charge is made.

2 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 school levies charges in respect of individual music tuition, and group music tuition up to and including 4 persons, if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the Pupil.

3 Residential Activities/Activities Outside School Hours

If the activity is held outside school hours and is education other than non-chargeable education,

then it is regarded as an "optional extra". A charge may be made for the full cost of the activity but must not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity. The charge may include the costs of travel, board and lodgings, additional staff costs, entrance fees, insurance, materials and equipment. However, the charge made to individual parents cannot include any cost added to subsidise parents of children who are unwilling or unable to pay the charge.

When is an activity held in school hours?

A day visit is in school hours if:

50% or more of the total time (including travel) occurs in school hours.

(School hours do not include the normal midday break).

A residential visit is in school hours if:

The number of school sessions missed is 50% or more than the number of half days spent on the visit (including travel).

A school session equates to a registration session (i.e. 2 per day).

A half day is a 12 hour period ending at midday or midnight.

4 Examination Entries

A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for pupils where the school has not prepared the pupil for the examination.

A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for pupils where

- the school has prepared the pupil for the examination and
- it considers that for educational reasons the pupil should not be entered and

- the pupil's parent/guardian wishes the pupil to be entered (or pupil him/herself when over 18 years old).

In these circumstances, if the pupil subsequently passes the examination, the school may refund the cost.

A charge may be levied for pupils re-sitting an examination.

A charge will be levied where a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the school paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.

5 Damage/Loss to Property

A charge will be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of school property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials), the charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Headteacher may decide.

6 Lettings

The school will make its facilities available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges will be determined annually by the Resources Committee and approved by the Governing Body.

7 Other charges

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

Remissions Policy.

Where non-chargeable education is provided during a residential visit, then the parents of a pupil who is eligible for free school lunch shall receive a complete remission of any charges that would otherwise be payable in respect of board or lodgings.

Under current regulations children whose parents receive the following support payments are eligible for free school meals:

- Income support
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Child Tax Credit except if the parent meets ANY of the following criteria - i) entitled to working tax credit (regardless of income), ii) have an annual income in excess of £16,100 (Please note that this figure is correct at August 2015 and that it may change in April each year).
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Where charges are to be made by the governing body for optional extras, parents may receive a remission for the whole or part of the charge as set out in the school's remissions policy