

# **Charging and Remission Policy**

## **December 2024**

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# Contents

1. Aims .....	4
2. Legislation and guidance .....	4
3. Definitions.....	4
4. Roles and responsibilities .....	4
4.1 The Mersey View Learning Trust (MVL) Trust Board .....	4
4.2 The Headteacher/Local Governing Board .....	4
4.3 Staff .....	4
4.4 Parents.....	4
5. Where charges cannot be made.....	5
5.1 Education.....	5
5.2 Transport .....	5
5.3 Residential visits .....	5
6. Where charges can be made .....	5
6.1 Education.....	5
6.2 Optional extras .....	6
6.3 Music tuition .....	6
6.4 Residential visits .....	7
6.5 Damage to school property .....	7
7. Voluntary contributions.....	7
8. Activities this school charges for.....	7
9. Remissions .....	7
9.1 Remissions for residential visits .....	7

## **1. Aims**

### **Our school aims to:**

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions.
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made.

## **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.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## **3. Definitions**

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

## **4. Roles and responsibilities**

### **4.1 The Mersey View Learning Trust (MVL) Trust Board**

The Governing Board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual Trustee or the Headteacher.

The Governing Board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

### **4.2 The Headteacher/Local Governing Board**

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

### **4.3 Staff**

Our staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently.
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies.

The Senior Leadership Team at each school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

### **4.4 Parents**

Parents are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

## **5. Where charges cannot be made**

Below we set out **what the school's in the Trust cannot charge for:**

### **5.1 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 national curriculum.
  - 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.

### **5.2 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 Governing 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.

### **5.3 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 national 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.

## **6. Where charges can be made**

Below we set out **what the school's in the Trust can charge for.**

### **6.1 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
- Community facilities.

## 6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras. In these cases, the school 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 national 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 local authority/Governing 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.

## 6.3 Music tuition

The schools in the Trust 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 national 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.

## 6.4 Residential visits

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

## 6.5 Damage to school property

The Schools in the Trust will ask parents to contribute towards the cost of damage to school property or equipment where this results from a student's negligence or misbehaviour.

The Trust reserves the right to refuse students the opportunity to take part in trips and activities where there is a history of vandalism or poor behaviour, as this may represent a Health and Safety risk and concerns about the reputation of the school.

## 7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 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 trips and sporting events.

**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.

## 8. Activities this school charges for

The school will charge for the following activities:

### Material and Equipment

- Parents may be expected to provide materials or be charged for materials where the parents wish to own the end product i.e. ingredients and materials for items produced during food technology, textiles, design technology and art classes.
- Should a parent wish to own books or equipment such as revision guides, textbooks and musical instruments, these items will also be chargeable.

### Optional Extras

- Charges may be made for some activities that are known as 'optional extras'. Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge **can** be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment. Optionla ex.

## 9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Governing Board and will depend on the activity in question.

### 9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Universal credit in prescribed circumstances.
- Income Support.
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance.

- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 .
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received, and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,105.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

## **Review**

This policy is reviewed yearly by the Trust. We will monitor the application and outcomes of this policy to ensure it is working effectively.