

SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

The Board of Trustees and staff at Sutton Grammar School are committed to providing a safe and happy learning environment, promoting equality and diversity and ensuring the well-being of all members of the school community. It is their clear intention to promote good behaviour and to exercise their responsibilities in ensuring the safeguarding and welfare of all students and staff within this community.

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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 and will not be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

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 to 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 governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

Responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy has been delegated to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

4.2 Headteachers

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

Staff are responsible for:

- › Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- › Notifying the Headteacher of any specific circumstances that they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents/carers

Parents/carers 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 we **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/carer.
- › 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 (LA) has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- › Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board has arranged for pupils to be educated
- › Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for that examination at the school
- › Transport provided in connection with an educational visit which is part of the curriculum

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, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

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

6.1 Education

- › Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carer wishes the child to own them
- › Optional extras (see section 6.2)
- › Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- › Community facilities
- › For examinations for which the pupil has not been prepared at School;
- › For an examination which is not prescribed, but the School arranges for the pupil to take it;
- › Where the preparation provided by the School enables a pupil to enter for two or more examinations in the same subject, the parents shall be charged for the cost of sitting the second and subsequent examinations; where fees vary, the parents shall be charged for the higher fees;
- › If a pupil fails without good reason to complete all the examination requirements, including the submission of coursework, and the School has already paid the entry fee.
- › The School will pay the entry fee for each examination module when it is sat for the first time. If a student subsequently resits a module for the purpose of gaining a higher mark, the student will be expected to pay for the module at the time of the submission of the entry.
- › When parents or a student ask for a remarking of an examination paper and that request is not supported by the School.

6.2 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 National Curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- › Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the 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
- › Support 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/carers 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 that is to be charged for.

6.3 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/carer.

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.

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/carers to fund any activities that would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include **co-curricular and extracurricular trips and activities**. **There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers 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 we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities: Combined Cadet Force (CCF), Duke of Edinburgh (DofE), co-curricular and extracurricular trips to theatre performances, exhibitions, workshops.

The charges for each activity will be reviewed by the finance team. The overarching principle is that the charges should only cover the actual costs incurred, including processing fees and that trips should operate on break even basis.

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

The school aims to ensure all students have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Parents and carers are encouraged to reach out to the school if they require

financial support. Established procedures are in place to assist students who are eligible for free school meals or are identified as pupil premium.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The DFO monitors charges and remissions and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by DFO every two years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the FGPC committee.