



Phoenix Arch School

CHARGING AND REMISSION

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required.

Date ratified: February 2021

Date of Review: May 2022

INTRODUCTION

At Phoenix Arch School the Governors are committed to a free and comprehensive education, which ensures equality of access and opportunity for all pupils. We want to provide a range of experiences which add excitement and enjoyment to children's learning and personal development. All our pupils should benefit from school visits, curricular and extra-curricular activities regardless of gender, age, race, belief, ability or disability, sexual orientation or identity and economic circumstances.

This Charging & Remissions Policy is designed to ensure that children from economically disadvantaged families have the same opportunities, wherever possible, as those from more affluent homes. The Governing Board recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities, practical activities, trips and residential experiences can make towards pupils' personal and social education. The Governing Board aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the schools and as additional optional activities.

Charging Policy

Any charges made by the school must meet the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1996. Section 457 requires both the Local Authority and individual governing boards to determine and keep under review a policy in respect of both charging and remission arrangements. No charge may be made by a governing board or the Local Authority unless it has drawn up a statement of its policy. The governors endorse the guiding principles contained in the Act, in particular that no child should have his/her access to the curriculum limited by charges.

MUSIC TUITION

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. A charge can be made for individual tuition in a musical instrument even if within school hours, except where it is part of the syllabus. School hours are those when the school is in session. Please consult your specific school site as times may vary slightly

RESIDENTIAL VISITS

Where a school activity requires pupils to spend nights away from home, the governing body will make a charge for board and lodging whether or not the residential trip is deemed to have taken place in school hours. The charge will not exceed the cost of the board and lodging provided for each pupil involved.

Where a trip is deemed to have taken place outside school hours, charges not exceeding the cost may also be levied for travel.

Where a pupil participates in a residential trip deemed to take place in school hours, the governing body will endeavour to subsidise the board and lodging charges and travel costs for a Pupil Premium pupil whose parents are in receipt of income support, family credit, an income-based jobseekers allowance (payable under the Jobseekers Act 1995), or Disability Living Allowance.

TRANSPORT

In general, any transport provided by the governing body in school hours for regular activities, such as swimming, will be provided free of charge. However, where a pupil makes use of transport not provided by the school to travel direct from home to an activity sanctioned, though not provided by the school, parents will be expected to meet the costs of such travel. Parents will be asked to make a contribution to cover the cost of transport for visits to places of educational interest. No child will be excluded from the trip if a contribution is not made. However, if sufficient contributions are not forthcoming, the school reserves the right not to proceed with the activity.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

The Education Act 1996 states that no charge can be made for activities that take place wholly or mainly during school hours though parents can be invited to make voluntary contributions. Parents will be asked to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of visits to places of educational interest in line with section 4.2 of this act.

CLOTHING

Although no charge will be made for 'equipment' for use in connection with education provided during school hours, clothing is specifically excluded from the definition of equipment. Parents can therefore be

asked to provide their children with such things as painting aprons, PE and sports kit, and football boots.

GAMES AND SWIMMING

No charge will be made towards the transport costs of games and swimming, which take place during the school day.

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals are charged at £2.30 per day, except for families who are entitled to Free School Meals.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Governors reserve the right to charge parents if their child is found to be responsible for wilful destruction of school property.

Remissions for economically disadvantaged families

Some charges may be waived for pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium. Additionally, financial support for residential trips can sometimes be arranged through other sources of funding. In keeping with our aim to ensure financial disadvantage does not prevent access to opportunity, the Governing Board invites parents to apply in confidence to the Head Teacher or School Business Manager for the remission of charges in part or in full in case of hardship. Head Teacher or School Business Manager, in consultation with the Governing Board if necessary will make the decision on authorization of remission.

Monitoring arrangements

The Admin Team monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the governing board every 2 years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.