



Triumph Learning Trust

Aspiration - Collaboration - Innovation

Charging and Remission Policy

Policy Details

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1. Introduction

This Policy has been written to set out what charges will be levied for various activities; what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents and carers of pupils at Triumph Learning Trust Schools.

The policy ensures that statutory requirements are met and is intended to reflect the general principles of the Education Act which identifies activities for which:

- Charges will not be made
- Charges will be made
- Charges may be waived

The Trust 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. Scope of Policy

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. Responsibilities

The Trust recognises it has a statutory obligation to adopt formal policies and establish workplace procedures for dealing with Charging and Remission. The Trust recognises that [topic] rules and procedures promote good employment relations and is committed to dealing with matters in a fair and consistent way.

The CFO and each School Operations Manager (or equivalent role) are responsible for providing advice and guidance under this policy and reviewing and updating the policy as required.

The CEO takes overall responsibility for the implementation of policies and procedures and provides appropriate reports to Trustees in relation to the policy

The Headteachers are responsible for the implementation of and compliance with this policy within their school ensuring competence in those staff who are responsible for and involved in the operation of this policy and associated guidance

Staff are responsible for Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently to notify the Headteacher of any specific circumstances which 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.

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

4. Where charges cannot be made

The Trust/ School recognise that the legislation prohibits charges for the following areas:

Education

- Admissions applications
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments, or other equipment)
- Education provided outside 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
- Instrumental or vocal tuition for pupils learning individually or in groups, if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part religious education (unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent). For example, at RFPS, vocal, guitar and keyboard lessons are chargeable to parents as they are additional and not part of the national curriculum.
- Entry for prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at school
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport. In these cases, the local authority is responsible for providing transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority 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

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 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 school accompanying pupils on residential trip

5. Where Charges can be made

The Trust/School can may levy charges as follows:

Education

- Any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional extras where the schools can charge for the proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside of school hours and providing materials, books, instruments, and equipment (see below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

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 or religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) and re-sit 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 or governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit through this charge must not exceed the actual cost.
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea, and supervised homework sessions)
- Non-teaching staff costs
- Entrance fees
- Insurance costs

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 operational 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 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.

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.

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 the local authority

6. Voluntary Contributions

Parents and carers may be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following:

- Cost of any school activity, whether residential or not, which involves cost for transport or entrance fees
- Cost of a second entry for examinations
- Cost of a special activity within school such as theatre performance
- The school fund at their child's school

The terms of any request made to parents will specify:

- That the contribution is genuinely voluntary, and a parent is under no obligation to pay; and,
- That registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution response to the request.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution requested is delegated to the Headteacher at each school within the Trust.

Voluntary contributions will be used to:

- Pay for specific school activities
- Pay for pupils second entry for school examinations
- Activities as mentioned in the Constitution of each School Fund

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.

7. Activities or Schools Charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- Breakfast and After School Clubs
- After school Activities (Charges to cover staff time, equipment costs and transport)

A detailed list of all the activities schools charge for can be requested from their offices. The list details each activity and explains how the charges are calculated. The charges are determined by the schools and reviewed each year.

8. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may reduce the costs for items or activities set out in sections 5 and 7 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Trust Executive Team, CEO, Headteachers and CFO and will depend on the activity in questions.

Remissions for Residential Visits

Pupils who are in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding will be offered a reduced cost for the visit.