

# Finance Handbook

## Appendix 7 Charging and Remissions Policy

<b>Title</b>	Finance Handbook
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<b>Approved by</b>	Trustees
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<b>Links to other procedures</b>	<p>This policy has been adopted by the Board of Directors of the South York Multi Academy Trust and applies to all schools that make up the Trust. This policy applies to each school operating within the South York Multi- Academy Trust.</p> <p>This policy will be monitored regularly by the Multi Academy Trust Board in line with the agreed timetable for policy review or sooner as events or legislation changes require.</p>

## Appendix 7

### Charging and Remissions Policy

#### Statement of intent

SYMAT is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils, regardless of financial circumstances, and has established the following policy and procedures to ensure that no child is discriminated against by our offering of school trips, activities and educational extras.

In addition, we are committed to adhering to legal requirements regarding charging for school activities, and meeting all statutory guidance provided by the DfE.

#### 1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy will have consideration for, and be compliant with, the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Education Act 1996
- The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010
- DfE (2018) 'Charging for School Activities'
- DfE (2017) 'Governance Handbook'
- 'Our Funding Agreement'

#### 2. Charging for education

2.1. We will not charge parents for:

- Admission applications.
- Education provided during school hours.
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education.
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, unless provided at the request of the pupil's parents.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination re-sits, if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sits at the school.

2.2. We may charge parents for the following:

Materials, books, instruments or equipment, where they desire their child to own them  
Optional extras  
Music and vocational tuition (in certain circumstances)  
Use of community facilities

- 2.3. We may also ask for voluntary contributions to cover the costs of some curriculum enrichment activities that may occur within or beyond the school day (see section 6).

### **3. Optional extras**

- 3.1. We may charge parents for the following optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not:
  - Part of the national curriculum.
  - Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
  - Religious education.
- Examination entry fees where the pupil has not been prepared for the examinations at the school
- Transport, other than that arranged by the LA for the pupil to be provided with education
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- The provision of any documentation that the school has no statutory obligation to provide
- Any legal costs related to proceedings for the recovery of unpaid charges

- 3.2. When calculating the cost of optional extras, the school will only take into account the following:

Materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in relation to the optional extra

The cost of buildings and accommodation

The employment of non-teaching staff

The cost of teaching staff (including teaching assistants) under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra

The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide vocal tuition or tuition in playing a musical instrument

- 3.3. The school will not charge in excess of the actual cost of providing the optional extra divided by the number of participating pupils. We will not charge a subsidy for any pupils wishing to participate but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge. If a proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, we will not charge for the cost of alternative provision for those not participating.
- 3.4. Participation in any optional activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Therefore, parental agreement is a pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra.

### **4. Examination fees**

- 4.1. We may charge for examination fees if:

The examination is on the prescribed list (which includes SATs, GCSEs and A levels), but the pupil was not prepared for it at the school.

The examination is not on the prescribed list, but the school arranged for the pupil to take it.

A pupil fails, without good reason, to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing board or LA originally paid or agreed to pay the fee.

### **5. Examination re-sits**

- 5.1. Where a pupil is entered for a re-sit examination, we will pay the fee if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit at the school.
- 5.2. If a pupil or their parents consider it to be in the best interests of the pupil to request that an examination is re-marked, any fees involved must be covered by the pupil or their parents. If the awarding body changes the overall grade of the result, the school will not be charged by the awarding body and the parent/pupil will have their fees refunded.

## **6. Voluntary contributions**

- 6.1. We may, from time-to-time, ask for voluntary contributions towards the benefit of the school or school activities. If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, we will make this clear to parents at the outset. We will also make it clear that there is no obligation for parents to make a contribution, and notify parents whether assistance is available.
- 6.2. No child will be excluded from an activity simply because their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will still be given an equal opportunity to take part in the activity. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund an activity, and the school cannot fund it via another source, the activity will be cancelled.
- 6.3. We will strive to ensure that parents do not feel pressurised into making voluntary contributions.

## **7. Music tuition**

- 7.1. Music tuition is the only exception to the rule that all education provided during school hours must be free. The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 allow for charges to be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size – provided that the tuition is at the request of the pupil's parents.
- 7.2. The charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff providing the tuition.

## **8. Transport**

- 8.1. We will not charge for:
  - Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the LA has a statutory obligation to provide the transport.
  - Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated.
  - Transporting pupils to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for the examination at the school.
  - Transport provided for an educational visit.

## **9. Residential visits**

- 9.1. We will not charge for:

- 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, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for teachers accompanying pupils on visits.

9.2. We may charge for board and lodging – but the charge will not exceed the actual cost.

9.3. Parents will be exempt from board and lodging costs if they can prove that they are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided that they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if they apply on or after 1 April 2018, their household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits they receive)

## 10. Education partly during school hours

10.1. If 50 percent or more of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours (including time spent travelling if the travel occurs during school hours), it is deemed to take place during school hours and no charge will be made.

10.2. If less than 50 percent of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours and we may charge for the activity; however, we will not charge if the activity is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.

10.3. **Residential visits:** If the number of school sessions covered by the visit is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the number of half days (any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day) spent on the visit, we will not charge for the activity.

10.4. The remission of charges for board and lodging payments is the responsibility of the school. These costs will be borne by our contingency funds.

## 11. Damaged or lost items

11.1. The school may charge parents for the cost of replacing items broken, damaged or lost due to their child's behaviour.

## 12. Remissions

- 12.1. We have set aside a small fund to enable families in financial difficulty to send their children on visits/activities. The funding is limited and there is no guarantee that all requests can be met. Assistance will be allocated on a needs basis, and if the full cost of the trip/activity cannot be met through assistance funding and voluntary contributions, the trip/activity will be cancelled.
- 12.2. Individual cases of need will be looked at on a needs basis without prejudice – these trips and activities must be directly essential to an examination course.
- 12.3. Parents in receipt of any of the following benefits may request assistance with the costs of activities:
- Income Support
  - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
  - Child Tax Credit, provided that they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and they have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
  - Working Tax Credit run on – paid for four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
  - Universal Credit – if they apply on or after 1 April 2018, their household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits they receive)
- 12.4. To request assistance, parents should contact the relevant school office

## Appendix 8

### Lettings Policy

South York Multi Academy Trust regards the school buildings and grounds as a community asset and will make every reasonable effort to enable them to be used as much as possible.

However, the overriding aim of the Multi Academy Trust is to support the schools in providing the best possible education for its pupils, and any lettings of the premises to outside organisations will be considered with this in mind.

In addition to this, whilst the decision on lettings should be taken at Local level by School Management and Local Governing Body, lettings which have the potential to bring the reputation of the MAT into disrepute should not be permitted – if the Local Governing Body is unsure whether this would be the case this should be referred to the Trust Board.

The school's budget (which is provided for the education of its pupils) will not be used to subsidise any lettings by community or commercial organisations. A charge will be levied to meet the additional costs incurred by the school in respect of any lettings of the premises.

As a minimum, the actual cost to the school of any use of the premises by an outside organisation must be reimbursed to the school's budget.

#### Definition of a Letting

A letting may be defined as "any use of the school premises (buildings and grounds) by either a community group (such as a local music group or football team), or a commercial organisation (such as the local branch of 'Weight Watchers')". A letting must not interfere with the primary activity of the school, which is to provide a high standard of education for all its pupils.

Use of the premises for activities such as staff meetings, parents' meetings, Governing Body meetings and extra-curricular activities of pupils supervised by school staff, fall within the corporate life of the school. Costs arising from these uses are therefore a legitimate charge against the school's budget.

#### Types of Lettings

Single lettings are those where an individual or organisation wishes to hire facilities on a one off basis, these lettings should still be subject to a formal lettings agreement and follow the same principles as a continuous letting.

Continuous lettings are those that run for a number of weeks or terms.

#### Letting Agreement

All lettings (even those where no charge is made) must be subject to a letting agreement, this will detail the terms of the letting and must be signed by both the school and the hirer.

A letting should only be confirmed as accepted when a signed letting agreement is in place. Any amendments to an agreement will require a new agreement form to be signed.

#### Charges for a Letting

The Local Governing Body in agreement with the MAT Board is responsible for setting charges for the letting of the school premises.