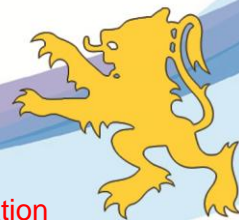




# FINHAM PARK SCHOOL

*A Mathematics and Computing College*

## **CHARGING AND REMISSIONS** **POLICY**



The School conforms to the LA's charging policy, the DES Circular 2/89 and the **Education Act 1996 (Sections 449-462)**: Charges for School Activities.

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including trips, clubs and residential experiences can make towards pupils' education. The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities. However, due to the limited funds in the delegated budget the Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge for activities organised by the school. The Governing Body will from time to time, review and amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made.

A Guide to the Law for School Governors sets out as follows what Governing Bodies & Local Authorities **CANNOT** charge for:

- An admission application to any maintained school
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- Education provided outside of school hours if it 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;
- Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as 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;
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school; and
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school. However, if a pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus, the fee can be recovered from the pupil's parents

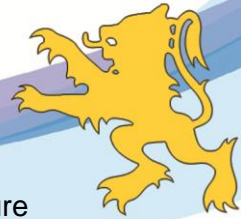
A school **CAN** charge for the following:

## **SECTION 2 CHARGING FOR VISITS**

### **a) All Visits:**

The group leader should always ensure that parents are notified as early as possible as to:

- the total cost of the visit;
- how much of the cost will come from school or LA funds (as in the case of field trips);
- how much each parent will need to pay or be asked to contribute towards the cost of the visit;
- how much spending/pocket money pupils will reasonably need (especially important for trips which involve a residential element);



- use of any surplus funds, i.e. will they be returned to parents or retained for future visits?

Early notification of the above is important as this allows parents to make financial preparations. Many parents find it helpful to gauge the value of the visit if they have information relating to the constituent costs of the visit, i.e. transport, accommodation, food, etc.

**b) During Normal School Hours:**

In all schools, except Independent Schools, visits which occur during school hours must be provided free of charge. However, parents can be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the trip **but there is no obligation on parents to make any contribution**. In reality the value of the requested contributions equates to the total cost of the visit (or more to allow for those parents who cannot or will not contribute) and therefore if insufficient voluntary contributions are forthcoming the visit may have to be cancelled - parents must be notified of this contingency. **A pupil whose parents/guardians do not contribute cannot be discriminated against and should not be excluded from an activity because his/her parents are unwilling or unable to pay.**

The Governing Body may offer to remit the full cost of full board and lodging for any residential activity which:

- takes place during school hours or;
- is not an optional extra (see following section for definition).

The decision to offer to remit board and lodging costs, as above, is subject to the parents of a pupil being in receipt of:

- 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 & Customs) does not exceed £15,575 (Financial Year 2008/9)**
- **The guarantee element of State Pension Credit**
- An income related employment & support allowance introduced on 27 Oct 2008**

Parental permission should be obtained in one of two ways:

- i) **Sample Parental Declaration.** Parents sign a declaration which contains, e.g.



I understand:

- that current legislation permits the School to ask for voluntary contributions towards the costs involved;
- that no pupil will be discriminated against on the grounds of inability to pay;
- that if sufficient money is not raised by voluntary contributions, then the visit may have to be cancelled.

ii) Signed Slip received back from parents:

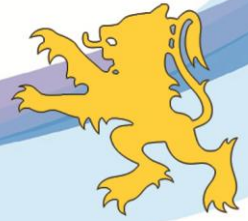
A letter about the visit is sent out to parents and contains a reply slip (with space for parental signature) and also a section on meeting the costs of the visit, the essence of which is contained in the following example:

"All pupils will need to take a packed lunch with them. Pupils who receive free School meals will be provided with a packed lunch. As we are travelling by coach, a small cost will be incurred. Current legislation permits us to ask only for voluntary contributions towards the costs involved. No pupil will be discriminated against on the grounds of inability to pay, but if sufficient money is not raised by voluntary contributions, then the visit will have to be cancelled. A contribution of £\_\_\_ should be sufficient to ensure that the trip can proceed."

### **c) Outside Of Normal School Hours/Optional Extras**

The Headteacher can charge parents for board and lodging on residential visits as well as the full cost when a visit is deemed to be an 'optional extra'. An optional extra:

- falls wholly or mainly outside school hours, i.e. a skiing holiday during the school holidays is an optional extra.
- does not form part of the National Curriculum or the statutory requirements for religious education;
- is not part of a syllabus towards a Prescribed Public Examination - if an 'A' level Biology syllabus mentions fieldwork as a requirement then this in itself does not necessitate a residential fieldtrip to another part of the country as local facilities may suffice. However, if the syllabus mentions that pupils need to know about the ecology of rocky shores and they live in a city a long way from the coast then the fieldtrip would not be classed as an 'optional extra'.



The parents' agreement to meet the costs of an optional extra visit before that visit is planned in detail will always be obtained in writing. The stated cost of an optional extra visit must not include an element of subsidy for pupils whose families do not meet the full charge.

Parental permission should be obtained as follows:

i) Sample Parental Declaration. Parents sign a declaration which contains, e.g.

I understand:

- that current legislation permits the School to ask for the full cost of the visit;
- that current legislation does not require the School to arrange subsidies for the visit;
- that if insufficient numbers of pupils opt for the visit then the visit may have to be cancelled.
- that my child cannot attend this 'optional extra' visit if full payment is not made by myself/ourselves.

### SECTION 3                      TRANSPORT IN A MINIBUS

If any payment is requested/made towards the cost of passengers being carried in a minibus then a public service vehicle (PSV) licence is required by the School. A licence is required if the school owns or rents the minibus. There are two types of PSV:

- restricted (for up to two vehicles);
- standard national (more than two vehicles).

The school **cannot** charge for:

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the LA has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit



#### **SECTION 4 INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTAL TUITION**

Parents will be charged in full for the cost of peripatetic music lessons. Pupils taking GCSE or A level music courses will be entitled to free lessons for one instrument only. Additional instrumental tuition is payable by the parents/guardians.

#### **SECTION 5 INGREDIENTS/MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT (IN KIND)**

The Governing Body reserves the right to charge for ingredients, materials or equipment (or the provision of them by parents) or require them to be provided if the parents have indicated in advance that they wish to own the 'finished product'.

This is directly relevant for the cost of materials/ingredients for the following subjects: CDT, Science, Art/Craft, Food Technology.

#### **SECTION 6 BROKEN EQUIPMENT (REPLACEMENT)**

The Governors will allow all departments to ask pupils and/or their parents to contribute towards the cost of replacement items where these were damaged or broken as a direct result of misconduct on the pupil's part. This does not in any way detract from the teaching staff's duty to brief pupils thoroughly and to manage a calm and safe working environment for the pupils.

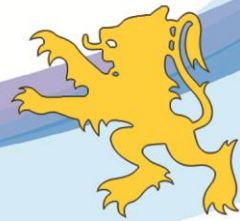
#### **SECTION 7 OPTIONAL EXTRAS**

The Governing Body may charge 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. Optional extras are:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not:
  - a) part of the National Curriculum;
  - b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or
  - c) part of religious education
- examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;
- transport that is not required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the LA/governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education; and
- board & lodging for a pupil on a residential visit.

In 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;



- non-teaching staff
- teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provided an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and
- the cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. It will therefore not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is a necessary pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

## **SECTION 8                      REMISSIONS**

The Governing Body may remit in full or in part the cost of any activity for particular groups of parents, for example, in the case of family hardship. When arranging a chargeable activity such parents will be invited, in confidence, for the remission of charges in full or in part. Authorisation for such remission will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

Compiled by: Jan Hawker	Date: November '06
Approved by Governors: Date:19/05/09	Revision date: 18/05/09



## CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY

Written by J Hawker on:  
Review date:

November 2006  
March 2011

Approved by Governors:

May 2010

Signed:

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailie', is written over a horizontal line.

MARK BAILIE  
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Burns', is written over a horizontal line.

PETER BURNS  
Chair of Governors

Date:

Date: