



# PLYMSTOCK SCHOOL

## CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Leader Officer: Business Manager

Date for Review: Autumn 2022

### 1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- 1.1 Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions;
- 1.2 Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made.

### 2. Legislation and guidance

- 2.1 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, which set out the law on charging for school activities in England. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements.
- 2.2 This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### 3. Definitions

- 3.1 **Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- 3.2 **Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

### 4. Roles and responsibilities

- 4.1 **The governing board**
  - 4.1.1 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.
  - 4.1.2 Responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy has been delegated to the governing body at Plymstock School.

#### 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:

- 4.3.1 Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently;
- 4.3.2 Notifying the Headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies.
- 4.3.3 The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

#### 4.4 **Parents**

Parents 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**

- 5.1.1 Admission applications;
- 5.1.2 Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment);
- 5.1.3 Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
  - (a) The national curriculum;
  - (b) A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school;
  - (c) Religious education.
- 5.1.4 Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent;
- 5.1.5 Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school;
- 5.1.6 Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school.

#### 5.2 **Transport**

- 5.2.1 Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- 5.2.2 Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;

5.2.3 Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school;

5.2.4 Transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

### 5.3 Residential visits

5.3.1 Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours;

5.3.2 Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:

- (a) The national curriculum;
- (b) A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school;
- (c) Religious education;
- (d) Supply teachers to cover for those 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

6.1.1 Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them;

6.1.2 Optional extras (see below);

6.1.3 Music and vocal tuition, by external providers;

6.1.4 Community facilities.

### 6.2 Optional extras

6.2.1 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:

- (a) Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
  - i. The national curriculum;
  - ii. A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school;
  - iii. Religious education.
- (b) Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;
- (c) 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);
- (d) Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit;

- (e) Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

6.2.2 When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- (a) Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra;
- (b) The cost of buildings and accommodation;
- (c) Non-teaching staff;
- (d) Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra);
- (e) The cost for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra.

6.2.3 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.

6.2.4 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.

6.2.5 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.

6.2.6 Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

### 6.3 **Music tuition**

6.3.1 Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided individually, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

6.3.2 Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

6.3.3 Charges cannot be made:

- (a) If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum;
- (b) 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

- 7.1 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 to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.
- 7.2 Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include: school trips, sports activities.
- 7.3 **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.**
- 7.4 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:

### 8.1 **Activities outside school hours**

Non-residential activities (other than those listed in Section 3 above) which take place outside school hours, but only if most of the time spent on that activity takes place outside school hours (time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours).

### 8.2 **Residential activities**

8.2.1 Board and lodging costs (but only those costs) of residential trips deemed to take place during school time.

8.2.2 Residential trips deemed to take place outside school time (other than for those activities listed in Section 3 above).

### 8.3 **Music tuition**

Music tuition for students

### 8.4 **Additional considerations**

The governing body recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end we will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

8.4.1 We have established a system for parents to pay in instalments;

8.4.2 When an opportunity for a trip arises at short notice it will be possible to arrange to pay by instalments beyond the date of the trip;

8.4.3 We acknowledge that offering opportunities on a 'first pay, first served' basis discriminates against students from families on lower incomes, and we will avoid that method of selection.

## 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.

## 10. Monitoring arrangements

- 10.1 The Business Manager monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.
- 10.2 This policy will be reviewed by the Business Manager every two years.
- 10.3 At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body at Plymstock School.

### Policy History

Policy / Version Date	Summary of change	Contact	Implementation Date	Review Date