



Grove Park Academies

CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY

Policy For: GROVE PARK ACADEMIES (Including Grove Park Primary School and Aspire School)

Policy Owner: C.LITTON (Executive Headteacher)

Policy Date: APRIL 2021

Review Date: APRIL 2022

- The Executive Headteacher & Governing Body will monitor the application of this policy and take appropriate steps to ensure that it is operating effectively.
- This policy will be reviewed ANNUALLY to ensure its effective application.
- Linked Policies include:
 - A. Equal Opportunities Policy
 - B. Curriculum Policy
 - C. Educational Visits Policy
 - D. Teaching & Learning Policy
- This policy and linked documentation are stored by the central administration team. For further information contact can be made by telephoning: 01795 477417 or emailing admin@groveparkacademies.org

- **This policy was ratified by the Finance and General Purpose Committee on the 25th March 2021 and approved by the Trust Board of Grove Park Academies on the 1st April 2021**

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that, during the school day, all children have full and free access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- 1.2 The school day is defined as 8.45am - 3.20pm.

2 WHAT WAS CONSULTED?

- 2.1 The policy has been informed by sections 44-462 of "The Education Act 1996" which sets out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by the Local Authority (LA) and the guidance document regarding music tuition charges. "The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007), which compliments the information given in Chapter 23 of "A Guide to the Law for School Governors"

3 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The Headteacher will ensure the following applies:

TIME OF DAY / ACTIVITY	DETAILS
During the school day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum plus Religious Education (R.E) will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. ● Staff and Governors / Trustees recognise the importance of activities, which while not an essential part of the Curriculum, add value and enjoyment to the experiences of children. ● Voluntary contributions may be sought for such activities during the school day which entail additional costs, i.e. educational visits relating to topics and places of interest. In these circumstances, no pupil will be prevented from participating because his / her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. Children of parents who do not make a contribution will not be treated any differently. If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents, this will be explained at the planning stage. An activity may be cancelled if not enough voluntary contributions are collected.
Education partly during the school day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a non-residential activity happens partly inside the school day, and partly outside of it, there will be no charge if most of the time to be spent on the activity falls within the school day. ● Conversely, if the greater proportion of time spend falls outside of the normal school day, charges will be made where the activity is not part of the National Curriculum. When such activities are arranged, parents will be told how the charges are calculated.
Residential visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Charges will be made on residential visits which are part of the National Curriculum for board and lodging, except for pupils whose parents are in receipt of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income Support - Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance - Support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999 - Child Tax Credit, provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit - The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit - An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27th October 2008. ● Other charges will be made to cover costs when the number of school sessions missed by the pupils total half or more of the number of half-days taken up by the activity and where the visit is not an essential part of the National Curriculum or part of an examination syllabus. In such cases, parents will be told how the charges are calculated.
Music tuition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Charges will be made for teaching an individual or group to play a musical instrument or to sing where the activity is not an essential part of the National Curriculum or public examination syllabus. ● For example, "Music for Schools".
Optional activities outside of the school day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, <i>i.e. theatre visits etc.</i> Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or Religious Education (R.E), nor are they part of an examination syllabus. ● Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a parental agreement will be a prerequisite for the provision of any optional extra activity.

4 CALCULATING CHARGES

- 4.1 When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating.
- 4.2 There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who cannot.
- 4.3 Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising.
- 4.4 Parents who would qualify for support include those in receipt of the following:
- Income Support
 - Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance
 - Support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
 - Child Tax Credit, provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit
 - The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
 - An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27th October 2008.
- 4.5 The principles of “Best Value” will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and / or charges to parents.

5 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

- 5.1 Staff and Governors / Trustees recognise the importance of activities, that while may not be an essential part of the Curriculum, add value and enjoyment to the experiences of the children. However, it may be necessary for voluntary contributions to be sought for such activities during the school day which entail additional costs, *i.e. visits to places of interest or attached to a topics etc.*
- 5.2 In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his / her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. Children of parents who do not make a contribution will not be treated any differently. If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents, this will be explained at the planning stage. An activity may be cancelled if not enough voluntary contributions are collected.

6 ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING & EVALUATION

- 6.1 The Finance Governors / Trustees will monitor the impact of this policy by receiving on a termly basis, a financial report on those activities that resulted in charges being levied, the subsidies awarded (without giving names) and the sources of those subsidies. *It will seek to evaluate the impact of the school's extended services on those children in need of additional support.*

7 LINKS TO LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 Further information and guidance documents and legislative provisions concerning charging for school activities can be found in the DfE provided document, “Charging for School Activities, departmental advice for governing bodies, school leaders, school staff and local authorities, May 2018” *Link is below*
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/706830/Charging_for_school_activities.pdf

APPENDIX 1 - CHARGING & REMISSIONS GUIDANCE

No changes can be made unless the Governing Body or Local Authority (LA) has drawn up a charging policy giving details of the optional extras or board and lodging that they intend to charge for, and also to include the policy for remissions. The Governing Body are responsible for ensuring that the charging and remissions policy is published.

A policy statement should take account of each type of activity that can be charged for any explain when charges will be made.

The Governing Body and LA's **cannot** charge for the following:

- 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 the school 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 (R.E);
- 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, or part of Religious Education (R.E);
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school; and examination resit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the resit(s) at the school.

If the school wishes to run an activity during the school day for which it would need contributions from parents or others, it can invite voluntary contributions. However, no child should be excluded from such activity because his / her parents cannot or will not contribute. Moreover, when made, charges per pupil cannot exceed the actual costs incurred, which mean that pupils who pay should not be charged extra to cover the costs of those who cannot afford to. This may mean that some activities will need to be cancelled if the school budget cannot cover the costs.

If a charge is to be made for a particular type of activity, i.e. optional extras, parents need to know how the charge will be calculated and who might qualify for help with the cost (or even get it for free). This information should be made available to parents.

Activities which are an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination must be provided for free.

The remissions policy must set out any circumstances in which the school or LA propose to remit (wholly or partly) any charge which would otherwise be payable to them in accordance with their charging policy. For example, a school may decide to provide an Italian language evening class as an optional extra. The Governing Body may decide to reduce the cost for those children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits.

Chapter 23 of "A Guide to the Law for School Governors" provides further, detailed guidance on residential activities, use of mini-buses, public examinations and activities provided during school hours by external bodies.

* It should be noted that "part of the National Curriculum" is not restricted to learning outside the classroom experiences that are specifically subject based (*e.g. Geography or Science fieldwork*) and include, for example, activities designed to fulfil requirements under the National Curriculum "inclusion statement" (*e.g. developing teamwork skills*).