



“TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER”

CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY

Approved by the Chair of Governors

Signature_____

Date_____

This Policy will be reviewed October 2023

Dorrington Academy

Charging and Remissions Policy

RATIONALE

The Governing Body of Dorrington Academy 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 Academy and as additional optional activities.

CONTEXT

The law states that education provided during Academy hours must be free. This definition includes materials, equipment and transport provided in Academy hours by the Local Authority or the School. No pupil may be left out of an activity because their parents cannot or will not make a contribution of any kind.

AIMS

- To make Academy activities accessible to pupils regardless of family income.
- To provide a process which allows activities to take place at a minimum cost to parents, pupils and the Academy and;
- Which acknowledges the cost of such activities to the Academy's budget?

CHARGES

The Governors wish to see the curriculum enriched for the benefit of all pupils. They recognise that whatever public funds are made available there will never be sufficient to fund all desirable activities at the required level. They therefore reserve the right to:-

- a. Charge parents for the activities charged as an optional extra.
- b. Reclaim from parents the cost of wilful breakages and damages.
- c. Draw to the attention of parents activities by a third party - giving parents the opportunity for their children during the school day to join those activities - in those circumstances charges may well be levied by the third party.
- d. Charge for peripatetic music tuition.

Residential Activities Taking Place Largely During Academy Hours

The full cost to each pupil of board and lodging. Parents have the right to claim free activities if they are in receipt of the following state benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Support under section VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1996
- Child Tax Credit provided they are not entitled to working tax credit tax and an annual income that does not exceed the published Inland Revenue threshold
- An income related employment and support allowance
- Guarantee element of state pension credit

Activities outside Academy Hours

The full cost to each pupil of all approved activities deemed to be optional extras that are not a necessary part of the national curriculum.

Individual Instrumental Tuition

The full cost to the pupil for providing any instrumental tuition if the cost is not an essential part of the national curriculum or examination syllabus.

REMISSIONS

There will be no obligation for any parent to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of Academy activities and to the Academy Fund. Pupils will not be treated differently whether or not their parents have made a contribution.

The Governing Body may wish to remit in full or in part the cost of other activities 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. The Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors will make authorisation for such remission.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary contributions may be requested from parents to cover the cost of the following activities:

Bus fares
Entrance fees
School visitors

LATE CHARGES

To reduce the exceptionally high number of children collected after school. Parents will be charged £5 when children are taken to late area and then £5 for every additional five minutes thereafter.

GENERAL

The Governing Body may from time to time, amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made. Nothing in this policy statement precludes the Governing Body from inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of additional activities, which take place in school time. Parents may be advised that the continuance of an activity may depend upon voluntary contributions, but once it has been decided to run such an activity no qualifying child will be excluded on the grounds of voluntary contributions.

Ratified by the Governing Body

Signature: _____
(Chair of the Governors)

Date: _____

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