

Bishop Challoner Catholic College



Next Review

July 2026

Review Period

Annual

Principal Reviewed

July 2025

Website Published

July 2025

Current Status

Complete

Staff Owner

H Burton

Government/DfE Requirement

Statutory

Charging and Remissions

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, visits, extension activities and residential experiences can make towards students' academic, personal and social education.

The school wishes to provide for all students the best possible educational opportunities available within the funds allocated. The law states very clearly that education during normal school hours is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents/carers, and the school is committed to uphold the legal requirements. However, educationally valuable activities have been and will continue to be dependent on financial contributions in whole or in part from parents/carers. The school's concern is to keep financial contributions to a reasonable minimum, and to ensure as far as possible that all children are able to take part, irrespective of their circumstances. The law recognises that charges may be made to parents/carers in certain defined circumstances - provided that each school has identified the activities for which charges will be made and has explained the basis on which charges may be reduced or waived for certain students.

1. Admissions

There is no charge for admissions.

2. School meals

There is no charge for children who are entitled to free school meals. Pupils who are not entitled to free school meals will be charged as per the displayed prices. If free school meal allowance is exceeded, this may be charged if deemed necessary.

3. Public examinations

- 3.1 There is no charge for examinations that are part of the curriculum and on the school's set examinations list, where children have been prepared for the examinations by the school. However, if the pupil fails without good reason to meet an examination requirement, the school may recover the fee incurred from that pupil's parents.
- 3.2 There is no charge for examinations that are not on the set list but have been arranged by the school.
- 3.3 There is a charge of the examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school (see Optional extras under section 5).

4. Activities that take place during school hours

(This does not include break and lunch times)

There is no charge for activities during school hours with the exception of music tuition (section 8).

- 4.1 There is no charge for transport during school hours to school-organised activities.
- 4.2 The school may charge for:
 - Books and materials that the parent wishes the child to keep (the cost will be made clear to the parents before charge)
 - Optional extras (section 5)
 - Music or vocal tuition (section 8).

5. Activities that take place outside of school hours (non-residential)

- 5.1 There is no charge for activities that take place outside of school hours where they are:
- Part of the set curriculum, including sports matches against other schools
 - Part of the syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school
 - Part of the school's basic curriculum for Religious Education.

5.2 Optional extras

The school will charge for optional extras. 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
 - (c) Part of Religious Education.
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school.
- Examination re-sit(s) if the re-sit request is made solely by the parent and not the school. It will be at the school's discretion if a student is entered for a second, or subsequent, attempt at an examination. Payment of fees will be discussed and agreed on an individual student basis.
- If a student, or their parents/carers consider it to be in the best interests of the student to request that an examination is re-marked, any fees involved must be covered by the student or their parents.

5.3 The cost of optional extras

Charges for optional extras, when determined, will be communicated in a timely manner via letter or email and available on the school's online payment service.

- 5.4 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. In no circumstances will there be an element of subsidy required for any pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge (section 12).
- 5.5 When 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 provide an optional extra, including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra.
 - 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.
- 5.6 Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to pay the charges. The school will need to have the agreement of parents before organising the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

5.7 Year 7 Netbook Scheme

The school operates an optional netbook scheme for students joining in Year 7. While all students are issued a device for use in school, participation in the scheme allows families to contribute towards the cost of the device through monthly payments.

Students whose families opt into the payment scheme are permitted to take the device home during the school year and gain full ownership of the device once payments are completed in full. Families that do not contribute are able to access a daily loan device within school only, without the right to take it home.

The cost of the scheme reflects more than just the base value of the device. It includes:

- Licensing for essential educational software, including Microsoft Office
- Repair and maintenance contingencies
- Costs related to loan administration and interest (e.g. via Room 12)
- Variable pricing to offset unpaid contributions from non-paying users

Due to this model, the contribution may exceed the retail cost of the device to ensure the scheme remains sustainable and repairable within school budgets.

Participation is voluntary and considered an optional extra under this policy. Financial support or remission may be available to eligible families (see Section 11).

Details of the scheme, including cost breakdowns, expectations, and payment terms, are shared in advance of Year 7 enrolment. Parents are required to sign an agreement acknowledging the terms upon device issue.

6 Activities that take place partly during school hours either on or off site:

- 6.1 Where the majority of a non-residential activity takes place during school hours the charging of the activity will be the same as is outlined in section 4.
- 6.2 Travelling time is included in time spent on activity.
- 6.3 In cases where the majority of a non-residential activity takes place outside of school hours the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate. So no charge can be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a visit.
- 6.4 In this case the charging of the activity will be the same as is outlined in section 5.

7 Residential activities

- 7.1 Details of how the school applies charges for residential activities are found in the School's Educational Visits Policy.

8 Music tuition within school hours

- 8.1 The School follows government legislation that states that all education provided during school hours must be free; however, music lessons are an exception to this rule.
- 8.2 Charges will be made if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s).
- 8.3 The school may charge for teaching requested by parents and delivered by specialist tutors given to either an individual pupil or groups of any appropriate size (provided that the size of the group is based on sound pedagogical principles) to play a musical instrument or to

sing. The cost of these lessons may depend on the size and duration of the class as well as the type of instrument.

8.4 The school will not charge if the music tuition is part of the National Curriculum or public examination syllabus being followed by the student. This includes instruments, music books and exam fees.

8.5 The School is dedicated to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils including access to specialised music tuition, therefore charges made for music tuition within school hours will be remitted for pupils on free school meals.

8.6 There is no charge for vocal or instrumental tuition for children in care. This includes instruments, music books and exam fees.

9 Extended services

9.1 The School is dedicated to providing a well-rounded and extensive education for our students which includes a wide range of extra-curricular activities (extended services). Extended services enable our school to provide:

- high-quality learning opportunities either side of the school day.
- ways of intervening early when children are at risk of poor outcomes, e.g. by providing access to study support, parenting support or to more specialist services (such as health, social care or special educational needs services).
- ways of increasing pupil engagement.
- ways of improving outcomes and narrowing gaps in outcomes between different groups of pupils.
- Wrap around care before and after school may be offered which provides breakfast before school and/or tea and snacks after school. This will be charged as per the prices on the school website, payable via the school's online payment service.

9.2 The total charge will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise others.

10 Damage to property and breakages

10.1 Where school property has been wilfully damaged by a student or parent the school may charge those responsible for some or all of the cost of repair or replacement.

10.2 Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged by a pupil, and the school has been charged, the school may charge some or all of the cost to those responsible.

10.3 Whether or not these charges will be made will be decided by the Principal and dependent on the situation.

11 Remissions and concessions

11.1 The school will give consideration to the remission of charges to parents or carers who receive the following support payments:

- Universal Credit
- 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 guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

11.2 Children of families who receive these payments are also entitled to free school meals. Parents who are eligible for the remission of charges will be dealt with confidentially.

11.3 The Principal and Chair of Governors will authorise the remission of charges.

11.4 The school may choose to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and pupils, and this will be determined by the Local Governing Body and Principal.

12 Voluntary contributions

- 12.1 The School may ask for voluntary contributions to the school for general funds and/or to fund activities that will enrich our pupils' education.
- 12.2 In any case where an activity cannot be afforded without voluntary funding, this will be made clear to the parents by the school. If the activity is cancelled all monies paid will be returned to parents.
- 12.3 There is no obligation for a parent or carer to make any contribution and the school will in no way pressure parents to make a contribution.

13 Inability or unwillingness to pay

- 13.1 The School is committed to ensuring fair access and treatment of all pupils, and this means ensuring that no child is excluded from an activity because the parents or carers of that child are unwilling or unable to pay. If there is insufficient funding for an activity, then it will be cancelled.
- 13.2 The identity of the child or parents of the child who did not want to make the payment, or could not make the payment, will not be disclosed under any circumstances.