



Bolton Impact Trust

Charging & Remissions Policy

Document Control

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1.0 Policy statement

1.1 The Trust is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils, regardless of financial circumstances, and has established the following policy and procedures to ensure that no child is discriminated against. The Trust offers a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities.

1.2 In addition, the Trust is committed to adhering to legal requirements regarding charging for school activities and meeting all statutory guidance provided by the DfE. The Trust will

- not to charge for education provided during school hours
- not charge for breakfast and lunch and fully subsidises the cost of these
- inform parents on low incomes, and in receipt of relevant benefits, of the support available to them when asking for contributions

2.0 Scope and purpose

2.1 The policy explains the Trust's legal and moral obligation to provide a free education to all children and to ensure all provision is fully inclusive. It is our mission to challenge social and educational disadvantage and this policy supports this.

2.2 The policy explains all types of charges that a child and or parent may incur and how Trust schools support families who may encounter financial difficulties. The legal framework and statutory guidance that underpins this policy is;

- Education Act 1996
- The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010
- DfE 'Charging for School Activities'
- DfE 'Governance Handbook'
- ESFA Academies Financial Handbook
- Trust Funding Agreement (see Trust website)
- Other associated Trust policies such as the Finance policy

3.0 Charging for education

3.1 We will not charge parents / carers for:

- admission applications
- education provided during school hours
- education provided outside school hours (if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education)
- instrumental or vocal tuition (unless provided at the request of the pupil's parents / carer through our peripatetic service)
- entry for a prescribed public examination (if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school)

3.2 The Trust may charge parents / carers for the following:

- materials, books, instruments or equipment (where they desire their child to own them), for example mathematical equipment
- wilful damage to school property, equipment and furniture
- lost or damaged text or exercise books, lost locker keys and badges, planners etc.
- ingredients and materials for practical subjects (including design technology, food technology etc.)
- use of community facilities

4.0 Optional extras

4.1 We may charge parents / carers for the following optional extras:

- education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - part of the national curriculum
 - part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - religious education
- examination entry fees (where the pupil has not been prepared for the examinations at the school)
- transport for trips, other than that arranged by the council for the pupil to be provided with education
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- extended day services offered to pupils

4.2 When calculating the cost of optional extras, the school will only take into account the following:

- materials, books, instruments or equipment (provided in relation to the optional extra)
- the cost of buildings and accommodation
- the employment of non-teaching staff
- the cost of teaching staff (including teaching assistants) under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra
- the cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide vocal tuition or tuition in playing a musical instrument

4.3 The school will not charge in excess of the actual cost of providing the optional extra (divided by the number of participating pupils). The school will not charge a subsidy for any pupils wishing to participate but whose parents / carers are unwilling, or unable, to pay the full charge. If a proportion of the activity takes place during school hours. The school will not charge for the cost of alternative provision for those not participating.

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

5.0 Examination fees

5.1 We may charge for examination fees if:

- the examination is on the prescribed list but the pupil was not prepared for it at the school (eg a language not offered by the school)
- the examination is not on the prescribed list, but the school arranged for the pupil to take it
- Peripatetic examinations that the parent requests the child to undertake
- a pupil fails, without good reason, to complete the requirements of any public examination where the school agreed to pay the original fee (for example a former Post-16 pupil re-sitting as an 'external' candidate)

6.0 Examination re-sits and re-marks

6.1 It will be at the school's discretion if a pupil is entered for a second, or subsequent, attempt at an examination. Payment of fees will be discussed and agreed on an individual pupil basis.

6.2 If a pupil, or their parents / carer consider it to be in the best interests of the pupil to request that an examination is re-marked, any fees involved must be covered by the pupil or their parents. If the awarding body changes the overall grade of the result, the school will not be charged by the awarding body and the parents / carer / pupil will have their fees refunded.

7.0 Voluntary contributions

7.1 We may, from time-to-time, ask for voluntary contributions towards the benefit of the school or school activities. If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, we will make this clear to parents / carers at the outset. We will also make it clear whether assistance is available.

7.2 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.

7.3 If a parent / carer is unwilling, or unable, to pay, their child will still be given an equal opportunity to take part in the activity. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund an activity, and the school cannot fund it via another source, the activity will be cancelled.

7.4 We will strive to ensure that parents / carers do not feel pressurised into making voluntary contributions.

8.0 Music tuition

8.1 Music tuition is the only exception to the rule that all education provided during school hours must be free. The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations

2007 allow for charges to be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size – if the tuition is at the request of the pupil's parents / carers.

8.2 The charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff providing the tuition.

9.0 Transport

9.1 We will not charge for:

- transporting registered pupils to, or from, the school premises, where the council has a statutory obligation to provide the transport
- transporting pupils to meet an examination requirement at another school when they have been prepared for the examination at the school

10.0 Residential visits

10.1 We will not charge for:

- education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school , or part of religious education
- supply teachers to cover for teachers accompanying pupils on visits

10.2 We may charge for board and lodging – but the charge will not exceed the actual cost.

10.3 Parents / carers will be exempt from all or part of board and lodging costs if they can prove that they are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- 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 and Customs) did not exceed £16,190 in the previous financial year
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- an income related employment and support allowance
- or the child is classed as pupil premium

11.0 Education partly during school hours

11.1 If 50%, or more, of the time spent on an activity is during school hours (including time spent travelling if the travel occurs during school hours), it is deemed to take place during school hours and no charge will be made.

11.2 If less than 50% of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours and we may charge for the activity; however, we will not charge if the activity is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.

12.0 Damaged or lost items

12.1 The school may charge parents / carers for the cost of replacing items broken, damaged or lost due to their child's behaviour.

13.0 Remissions

13.1 We have set aside a fund from pupil premium income (see plan on each school website) to enable children classed as 'Ever 6' to access school trips.

13.2 Parents / carers in receipt of any of the following benefits may request assistance with the costs of activities:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- an income related employment and support allowance

13.3 Where remission of costs is sought by a parent or carer in connection with foreign travel for the purpose of improving linguistic skills, the school may be able to access funds from the British Council and if so, some cultural trips may be subsidised.

13.4 To request assistance, parents / carers should contact the individual school.

14.0 Refunds

14.1 Most trips will require a non-refundable deposit. This deposit will only become refundable if the trip is cancelled by the school. If a pupil pulls out of the trip through medical grounds, then this will be reviewed on an individual basis.