



The

# MAST

## Academy Trust

|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Policy</b>        | Charging and remissions policy  |
| <b>Owner</b>         | Chief Financial Officer         |
| <b>Date approved</b> | 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025     |
| <b>Approver</b>      | Finance, Audit & Risk Committee |

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Current version</b> | V7.0        |
| <b>Next review due</b> | Spring 2028 |

### Objective of Policy

To provide guidance on the policy and process charging and remissions.

| Version Control |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Version Number  | Summary of amends from previous version   |
| 2.0             | Annual review, addition of link to learning outside the classroom charging guidance, front cover amends.  |
| 3.0             | Annual review; addition to section 1, 1.4; adjustment made to section 2, 2.4.1; update to section 3, 3.4. |
| 4.0             | Annual review: Update to bullet points in 3.4   |
| 5.0             | Annual review   |
| 6.0             | Annual review: removal of section 2.8   |
| 7.0             | Annual review   |

| Sign off requirements           |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Approvers                       | Position     |
| Finance, Audit & Risk Committee | Trust Board  |
| Reviewers                       | Position     |
| Jason Field                     | CFO The MAST |
| Philip Marshall                 | Trustee      |

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Mast Academy Trust recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of activities, including clubs, trips, and residential experiences, can make towards students' personal and social education.
- 1.2 The Mast Academy Trust aims to promote and provide activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the students at the School and as additional optional activities.
- 1.3 While wishing to promote and provide as broad a range of such activities as possible for the benefit of all students, The Mast Academy Trust reserves the right to make a charge for certain activities organised by the Academies from time to time.
- 1.4 This guidance is published and is guided by the Government guidance "[charging for School activities](#)" and operates in line with the intentions of this document.

## **2.0 Charging**

### **2.1 Optional Extras**

- 2.1.1 The School endeavours to provide a range of activities which are held outside the compulsory curriculum. Parents/carers will be notified in advance of any such activities and their estimated cost. Parent/carer consent will be obtained for a child's participation in any such activity for which a charge is made. Any charge will depend upon the type of activity, its cost and the number of participants. This charge will not exceed the total cost of providing the activity.
- 2.1.2 Where such an activity is provided to fulfil any requirements specified by a public examination syllabus, or to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to Religious Education, then it is not regarded as an 'optional extra' and only board and lodging charges will be made.

### **2.2 Charging for residential activities**

- 2.2.1 If the activity is during School term time, charges will be made for the board and lodging element of such activities. Parents/carers will be notified in advance of any such activities and their estimated cost, and parent/carer consent will be obtained for a child's participation in any such activity for which a charge is made. Charges will be calculated by reference to the total cost of providing the trip for each student
- 2.2.2 All such charges will be made in line with government guidelines and will be designed to cover cost only.
- 2.2.3 The School reserves the right to cancel trips if they become economically unviable. Adequate notice will be given to notify parents of such decisions.

### **2.3 Materials, Equipment and Ingredients**

- 2.3.1 The Mast Academy Trust reserves the right to ask for a contribution towards the cost of materials, equipment and ingredients relating to activities taking place in School hours, for example during design and food technology lessons for students. This will be at the discretion of the School.
- 2.3.2 It is the responsibility of parents/carers to cover the cost of purchase or hire of instruments, materials, equipment or clothing for activities which take place outside School hours and which are purely voluntary and optional. (It remains the parent/carer's responsibility to supply school uniform including PE Kit).

### **2.4 Examination Fees**

- 2.4.1 No charge will be made for tests and assessments that are carried out at school from time to time. Each Headteacher will enter students into assessments as directed by the Department for education and may at their discretion organise additional

assessments to review student progress (e.g. on entry to the school). All these tests and assessments will be provided free of charge.

## 2.5 Music Tuition

2.5.1 There is a charge for individual tuition in the playing of a musical instrument whether in or out of School hours, unless it is provided as part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination or is required by the National Curriculum. Any such tuition must be delivered with the agreement of parents/carers. The costs of music tuition will not exceed the cost of providing it, including, amongst other things, the cost of providing a music teacher.

## 2.6 Community Users

2.6.1 The School may arrange to let its premises and facilities to members of the local community, other organisations with the Local Authority, businesses, charities and sports clubs.

## 2.7 General

2.7.1 The cost of repairing damage and replacing School property or equipment (lost, defaced or damaged) remains the responsibility of the parent/carer when this damage or loss is the result of their child's behaviour or negligence. Parents/carers are reminded that students should not bring valuables into the School and understand that the School takes no responsibility for any items lost.

2.7.2 The Mast Academy Trust may from time-to-time review charges made for particular trips and charges may change according to this reassessment of costs.

2.7.3 Nothing in this policy statement precludes The Mast Academy Trust from inviting parents/carers to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of providing education for students.

## 3.0 **Remissions**

- 3.1 Parents/carers may apply to The Mast Academy Trust for remission of charges in whole or part towards the charges for activities or for financial support towards the purchase of uniform items. This is available on a case-by-case basis. The Mast Academy Trust may from time to time decide to remit all or part of the cost of activities involving particular students. This will be at the discretion of the senior management of the School. In other circumstances, there may be cases of family hardship which make it difficult for students to take part in particular activities for which a charge is made.
- 3.2 When arranging a chargeable activity, The Mast Academy Trust will invite parents/carers to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. To qualify for help, parents/carers must complete the Application for Remission form and forward it to the School Finance Office and, if requested, provide proof of their income or benefits.
- 3.3 Authorisation of remission will be made by the nominated deputy of the Head Teacher and/or School Business Manager. All parents/carers, however, will have the right of appeal to the School, with the decisions of the Head Teacher being final.
- 3.4 Parents/carers providing proof of being in receipt of one of the following will be given remission support of charges for chargeable visits:
  - 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 guaranteed element of Pension Credit
  - Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

More detail can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

- 3.5 Other exceptional circumstances may be considered by the senior management team at the School.
- 3.6 In the case of uniform support or other chargeable activities remissions will be at the discretion of the Senior Management Team at the School.

## APPENDIX A

### Application for Remission from Charges/School Uniform Support

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Date:   | Name of Student:                        |
| Name of Parent/Carer:   | Signature of Parent/Carer:<br><br>Date: |
| Activity/ Funding required for:   | Total Cost:                             |
| Reason for application/circumstances<br><i>(Please give details of benefits currently received)</i> |   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>To be completed by the School</b>              |   |
| <b>Granted / Not granted</b>                      |   |
| Amount and breakdown of subsidy granted:          | Approved by: Finance Director/<br>Headteacher to sign |
| Time given to pay:                                | Date:   |
| Can this be funded from Activities For All grant? | Other funding/Budget area?                            |
| <b>Distribution List: (if applicable)</b>         |   |
| Finance Office:                                   | Principal:  |
| Trips Leader:                                     | Other:  |