



INSPIRING FUTURES, REALISING AMBITIONS

**NEWBURY ACADEMY TRUST**

**Charging and Remissions Policy**

**DATE APPROVED: December 2016**

**DATE FOR REVIEW: December 2017**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. H. Way".

SIGNED: .....  
On behalf of the Board of Directors

# CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

## Purpose and background

The school wishes to make a broad programme of activities accessible to as many pupils as possible. This policy is intended to maintain a fair and coherent system of charges and remissions within the constraints of the school budget. It also defines other circumstances when the school may wish to ask for voluntary contributions. The policy is written to comply with the relevant terms of the Education Act 1996, the Education (School Sessions and Charges and Remissions Policies) (Information) (England) Regulations 1999 and the Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) Regulations 1989. It also states the school's policy for charging for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

## Policy objectives

**Charging** No pupil should have his/her access to the curriculum limited by charges. However, the school reserves the right to levy a charge in any circumstances permissible under statute as detailed below. When charges are to be made the school reserves the absolute right to determine whether the activity has to be cancelled if an insufficient number of families are prepared to pay for the activity to take place.

**Voluntary Contributions** Where a charge cannot be made (as is often the case for activities which are an essential part of the curriculum, or religious education) parents may nevertheless be asked to make a voluntary contribution. The matter of a voluntary contribution will not be a factor in deciding whether a pupil is allowed to participate.

**Remissions** The school will apply the statutory minimum remissions to any charges that they make. In addition, a remission of 50% of charges and voluntary contributions will be offered to families who are entitled. However no pupil shall be placed at an educational disadvantage because of a parent's unwillingness or inability to contribute.

In the case of particular need, remission outside these parameters will be at the absolute discretion of the Headteacher/ Governing Body / LMB

**Information** In line with the school's Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policy, single copies of information will be provided free of charge unless specifically stated otherwise. The costs of providing greater quantities of information may be charged to the recipient, these to be advised prior to the request for information being fulfilled. The decision to charge will be at the discretion of the headteacher, except that where the costs exceed the "Threshold" as defined in the FOIA, the charge will be determined in line with the formula prescribed by the Act.

**Liability for personal property** The school does not accept liability for any items of personal property lost or damaged in school, although in exceptional circumstances a contribution for the replacement of a lost or damaged item may be made at the absolute discretion of the Headteacher .

## Management of policy

**Staff:** This policy is implemented and managed by the Executive Headteacher

## Governors and Directors:

Members of the Newbury Academy Trust Finance and Staffing Committee review this policy on a regular basis and recommends

amendments to the Full Governing Board (Board of Directors) for the final decision. This paragraph has changed to represent the new Governance structure.

### **Associated policies**

The Newbury Academy Trust School Fund Policy

Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policy

### **Practice and procedures**

Organisers of activities should be clear as to whether an activity falls within the parameters for charging or voluntary contributions:

#### **A - Activities which are AN ESSENTIAL PART of the national curriculum, religious education or for an approved examination**

##### Charging

It is not normally possible to charge for these activities.

Where a charge is allowed (see below), it may not exceed the cost that can be apportioned to the pupil's participation. If the cost of the chargeable element of an activity is expected to exceed the sum of the charges received then the organiser should ensure funds to balance are available by reference to the Headteacher. The school will normally ask for a contribution where the law permits it:

- 1 the cost of board and lodging for all residential activities subject to full remission being given those pupils whose parents are receiving Income Support, Working Families Tax Credit, Disabled Persons Tax Credit or income-based Jobseekers' Allowance, Pupil Premium
- 2 musical instrument tuition for pupils, if the teaching is not an essential part of the either the national curriculum or a public examination syllabus,
- 3 activities that take place during lunch breaks,
- 4 the services of a non-school organisation employed during school hours,
- 5 Reimbursement for materials used in the production of an article where the pupil's parent has indicated that he / she wishes the article to be owned.
- 6 Public examinations, only where without good reason a student fails to complete the requirements of the examination, or an examination on the school's set list has not been studied for by the student at school, or the examination is not on the school's set list.

##### Voluntary contributions

These may be asked for, but this must be done in line with the stated objectives of this policy. Organisers of activities will normally ask for voluntary contributions to cover the costs of:

- travel
- materials, books and equipment (i.e. Sketch books and revision guides)
- Swimming lessons for Primary School pupils this has been added into the policy.
- costs for specialist teachers such as Dance and English workshops

- associated administrative and support staff costs
- tickets and entrance fees.

The organiser is expected to have constructed a balanced budget in advance. When arranging an activity the voluntary contribution requested may be set to cover the direct cost per pupil, fixed overhead costs and where appropriate, with an allowance for a contingency.

When writing to parents the benefit and educational aims of the activity must be described along with any risks associated. A request for voluntary contributions must make it clear that:

- there is no obligation to make a contribution,
- no pupil will be treated differently or not allowed to participate according to whether a contribution has been made,
- it may be necessary to cancel an activity if voluntary contributions received are insufficient to meet the costs of the activity.

**B - activities available to our pupils that take place outside, or mainly outside, school hours that are NOT AN ESSENTIAL PART of the national curriculum, religious education or for an approved examination ('extra-curricular activities')**

#### Charging

A charge may be levied in order to support the wide range of additional extra-curricular activities arranged by the school. The organisers of activities will normally determine a charge to cover the costs of:

- travel, board and lodging
- materials, books and equipment
- associated administrative and support staff costs
- tickets and entrance fees.

For an extra-curricular activity the charge should be set to cover the direct cost per pupil, fixed overhead costs and where appropriate, an allowance for a contingency to cater for any reasonable unforeseen shortfall in income or increase in expenditure.

When writing to parents the benefit and aims of the activity must be described along with any risks associated, it should also refer to voluntary contributions.