

# Mercia School

## Charging and Remissions


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This policy has been approved by the Local Governing Body and has been signed by the Chair of Governors	
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### **Equality Impact Assessment**

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.



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### **Policy origins:**

This policy has been drawn up to conform to the charging arrangements as set out in the Education Act 1996. The Governing Body recognises that the Act prohibits charges for school activities which take place within school hours and/or are part of the school curriculum. This policy reinforces that principle, whilst setting out those school activities for which a charge may be made or a voluntary contribution requested, and those circumstances in which charges may be remitted.

### **1. Educational visits taking place in school hours**

Education provided during school hours will be free of charge. School hours are:

- As published by the school in its prospectus and on its website;
- Any “twilight sessions” used to deliver the school curriculum;
- Please note the lunch break is excluded.

No charge will be made for books, materials or equipment deemed necessary to meet the requirements of the school curriculum. However, materials which result in a finished product may be charged for.

Voluntary contributions may be requested to enable the school to run extra activities, including visits, which are educationally desirable. The school will make it clear in its communication to parents that these contributions are voluntary, and that no pupil will be treated differently according to whether or not the parent has contributed. It will also be made clear that if insufficient funds are received to cover the cost of the activity, it may be cancelled.

Where a non-school or LEA organisation arranges an activity to take place during school hours and parents give their consent to their child taking part in the activity, such an organisation may make a charge.

### **2. Educational visits taking place out of school hours**

A charge may be made for activities which take place wholly or mainly outside school hours except where the activity is required either:

- As part of the syllabus of a prescribed public examination, or
- To fulfil statutory requirements of the national curriculum or of religious education

In which case no charge may be made other than for board and lodging on a residential visit. For all other activities outside school hours the charge will be set to cover the cost of such items as:

- Transport/ travel costs
- Board and lodging
- Entrance fees
- Any materials required for the activity
- Incidental expenses

The charge should not subsidise any other pupil participating. Any remission of charges for individual pupils would be met by the school. A pupil’s participation in the activity is dependent on the agreement of their parent to meet the cost of the activity, and this agreement will be a pre-requisite to the pupil’s inclusion.



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### **3. Entry for Public Examinations**

No charge will be made for a pupil's first entry to a prescribed public examination for which the pupil has been prepared at the school, whether during or outside school hours.

A charge will, however, be made for:

- Re-sit examinations;
- Re-marks and clerical checks requested by pupils;
- Requests for scripts;
- An examination for which the pupil has not been prepared by the school;
- Where the pupil fails without good reason (in the judgement of the Governing Body) to meet the requirement of any public examination, e.g. by non-attendance, and where the school originally paid the entry fee;
- Where, without good reason, a pupil's attendance on the course falls below 90%

The charge will comprise the fee levied by the Examinations Board, plus an administration fee to be retained by the school.

### **4. Musical Instrument Tuition**

Charges will not be made for class musical tuition during school hours or out of school hours where it forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination or is required as part of the national curriculum.

A charge will, however, be made for teaching a pupil to play a musical instrument either individually or in a group. The school is committed to supporting pupils to learn a musical instrument and will provide funding where necessary.

Where a charge is made for musical instrument tuition, the parent will be invoiced direct by the teacher of that instrument in advance of the lessons and the 'contract' underlying that activity will be between the teacher concerned and the parent.

### **5. Loss or damage to school property**

Loss of, damage to or breakage of school property, e.g. books, windows, furniture, scientific equipment etc. will be charged for if caused by negligence or deliberate act. The charge will be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Headteacher may decide.

Similarly a charge will be levied in respect of willful damage, neglect or loss of property belonging to a third party, where the cost has been recharged to the School.

### **6. Transport**

Parents may be required to meet the cost of transport from home to an activity sanctioned but not provided by the school e.g. travel to Work Experience.

### **7. Other charges**

The school may levy a charge for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services, e.g. for providing a copy of an Ofsted Report



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### **8. Voluntary contributions to the school fund and capital projects**

Parents will be invited to make a financial contribution to the School Fund.

The School Fund will be used to:

- Acquire educational resources and fixed assets which would otherwise be unaffordable from the School's main budget, and
- May be used to subsidise a student participating in an activity outside school hours where that student's parent/carer is experiencing severe financial hardship.
- From time to time an appeal may be launched by the Governing Body in order to help finance a particular capital project. It will be made clear in all correspondence to parents inviting contributions to School Fund or to individual appeals that such contributions are wholly voluntary.

### **9. Remission of Charges**

Parents may apply to the school for remission of charges in whole or part towards the charges for activities or for a grant towards the purchase of uniform items.

To qualify for help, parents must contact the Headteacher and if requested provide proof of their income or benefit. Benefits include:

- Income support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (but not in receipt of Working Tax Credit) and whose family income does not exceed the limit (as assessed by the Inland Revenue)
- An Asylum seeker receiving support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2007