

Policy on Charging and Remissions

2017

1. This policy (which was reviewed and approved by The Bulmershe School Governing Body in February 2017) recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of enrichment activities can make toward a student's education. The School aims to provide and promote these as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and to enable students to develop existing interests, to explore new ones and to develop their life skills.

2. The Governing Body encourages parents to make voluntary contributions to The Bulmershe School Fund, which provides support for such activities, including support for parents who are unable to pay for them.

3. Charging: the school cannot make charges for education provided during school hours, including the supply of materials, books and equipment. Limited exceptions to this are set out in guidelines issued by the Government in October 2014. In line with these, the Governing Body will make the following charges:

- a) The full cost, including board and lodging, for residential activities that are optional extras to the curriculum, taking place inside or outside school hours;
- b) The cost of providing individual instrumental tuition where this does not occur within a club, and of maintaining musical instruments provided by a school of instrumental tuition;
- c) The cost of any materials, books, instruments or equipment where the student's parent wishes him/her to own them;
- d) At the Headteacher's discretion, a charge may be made for replacement of any item of school property that is lost or damaged.

The governing body may, from time to time, amend the categories of activities for which a charge may be made.

4. The Governing Body positively welcomes the use of the school facilities by the community the school serves but may levy charges for such use. Any profit generated will be spent within the purposes of the school.

5. Remissions: In circumstances of family hardship that make it difficult for students to take part in particular activities for which a charge is made, the school will invite parents to apply, in confidence, for the remission of charges in part or in full. Such remissions shall be made from The Bulmershe School Fund and will require the authorisation of the Headteacher and the governors' Vice-chair (Resources).

In line with the DfE guidelines, parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances;
- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received;
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- an income related employment and support allowance, introduced in 2008.

6. This policy is made in accordance with the current Department for Education guidelines (issued October 2014), which can be accessed here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514619/Charging_for_school_activities.pdf