EMBARK FEDERATION

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Charging and Remissions Policy

Fairfield Infant and Nursery School

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Contents

1. Aims 2
2. Legislation and guidance 2
3. Definitions 2
4. Roles and responsibilities 2
5. Where charges cannot be made 3
6. Where charges can be made 4
7. Voluntary contributions 5
8. Activities we charge for 5
9. Remissions 6
10. Monitoring arrangements 6

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1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will and will not be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupil/student from taking full advantage of these opportunities

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on charging for school activities and the Education Act 1996, sections 449 to 462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements.

It's also based on guidance from the DfE Academy Trust Governance Guide.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

- **Charge**: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- **Remission**: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Local Governing Team

The Local Governing Team has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to, an individual governor or the headteacher.

The Local Governing Team also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

4.2 Headteachers

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what we **cannot** charge for:

5.1 Education

- Admission applications
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
    - The National Curriculum
    - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
    - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupil/student learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parents/carers
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

5.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupil/student to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupil/student to other premises where the local governing team or local authority has arranged for pupil/student to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

5.3 Residential visits

- 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
    - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
    - Religious education

- Supply teachers, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupil/student on a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the pupil/student's parents/carers wish him or her to own them
- Optional extras (see section 6.2)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school **and** the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus

6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
    - The National Curriculum
    - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
    - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or local governing team has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupil/student (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupil/student will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupil/student participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupil/student who wish to take part in the activity, but whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupil/students who do not wish to participate.

Parent/carers agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

6.3 Music tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupil/student, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parents/carers.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

6.4 Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include; school trips, sports activities.

There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no pupil/student will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit, then it will be cancelled.

8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

Parents / Carers who choose to use the school's extended hours provision will be informed in advance of the charges applicable which will be reviewed on an annual basis. The charges for the current year are:

Nursery – 2yr old session £18.50

3+yr old session £15.00

30 hr additional costs: 2yr old £12.00

3+Yr old £10.00

Before/After school club:

Breakfast Club £4

After school until 4.30

Until 5.30 £10.00

These charges are applied for staffing and premises related costs.

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the local governing team and reviewed in June each year. Parents/carers will be informed of the charges for the coming year in July each year.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances, the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the local governing team and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential 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
- Pupil/student Tax Credit – provided you're 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)

Insert details of any other circumstances in which your school will remit (wholly or partly) any charge that would otherwise be payable.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The [staff member role] monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by [staff member role] every year.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the local governing team.