



Charging and Remissions Policy

Statement of intent

The Academies are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all children, regardless of financial circumstances, and has established the following policy and procedures to ensure that no child is discriminated against by our offering of school trips, activities and educational extras.

In addition, we are committed to adhering to legal requirements regarding charging for school activities, and meeting all statutory guidance provided by the DfE.

We promise:

- Not to charge for education provided during school hours.
- To inform parents on low incomes and in receipt of relevant benefits of the support available to them when asking for contributions.

Legal framework

This policy will have consideration for, and be compliant with, the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Education Act 1996
- The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010
- DfE (2014) 'Charging for School Activities'
- DfE (2015) 'Governance Handbook'

Charging for education

We will not charge parents for:

Admission applications.

- Education provided during school hours.
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the child is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education.
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, unless provided at the request of the child's parents.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the child has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination re-sits, if the child is being prepared for the re-sits at the school.

We may charge parents for the following:

- Materials, books, instruments or equipment, where they desire their child to own them
- [Optional extras](#)
- [Music and vocational tuition \(in certain circumstances\)](#)
- Use of community facilities

Optional extras

We may charge parents for the following optional extras:

Education provided outside of school time that is not:

- Part of the national curriculum.
- Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the child is being prepared for at the school.
- Religious education.
- Examination entry fees where the child has not been prepared for the examinations at the school



- Transport, other than that arranged by the LA for the child to be provided with education
- Board and lodging for a child on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to children

When calculating the cost of optional extras, the schools will only take into account the following:

- Materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in relation to the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- The employment of non-teaching staff
- The cost of teaching staff (including teaching assistants) under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide vocal tuition or tuition in playing a musical instrument

The Academies will not charge in excess of the actual cost of providing the optional extra divided by the number of participating children. We will not charge a subsidy for any children wishing to participate but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge. If a proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, we will not charge for the cost of alternative provision for those not participating.

Participation in any optional activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Therefore, parental agreement is a pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra.

Examination fees

We may charge for examination fees if:

- The examination is on the prescribed list (which includes SATs, GCSEs and A levels), but the child was not prepared for it at the academy.
- The examination is not on the prescribed list, but the academy arranged for the child to take it.
- A child fails, without good reason, to complete the requirements of any public examination where the academy or LA originally paid or agreed to pay the fee.

Examination re-sits

Where a child is entered for a second or subsequent attempt at an examination, we will pay the fee. Once children have left the academy, re-sits must be taken at the academy.

If a child or their parents consider it to be in the best interests of the child to request that an examination is re-marked, any fees involved must be covered by the child or their parents. If the awarding body changes the overall grade of the result, the academy will not be charged by the awarding body and the parent/child will have their fees refunded.

Voluntary contributions

We may ask for voluntary contributions towards the benefit of the academies or academies' activities. If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, we will make this clear to parents at the outset. We will also make it clear that there is no obligation for parents to make a contribution, and notify parents whether assistance is available.

No child will be excluded from an activity simply because their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will still be given an equal opportunity to take part in the activity. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund an activity, and the academy cannot fund it via another source, the activity will be cancelled. We will strive to ensure that parents do not feel pressurised into making voluntary contributions.



Music tuition

Music tuition is the only exception to the rule that all education provided during school hours must be free. The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 allow for charges to be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size – provided that the tuition is at the request of the child's parents.

The charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff providing the tuition.

Transport

We will not charge for:

- Transporting registered children to or from the academies' premises, where the LA has a statutory obligation to provide the transport.
- Transporting registered children to other premises where the Academies or LA has arranged for children to be educated.
- Transporting children to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for the examination at the schools.
- Transport provided for an educational visit.

Residential visits

We will not charge for:

- 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, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the child is being prepared for at the academy, or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for teachers accompanying children on visits.

We may charge for board and lodging – but the charge will not exceed the actual cost.

Parents will be exempt from board and lodging costs if they can prove that they are in receipt of specific benefits:

Education partly during school hours

If 50 percent or more of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours (including time spent travelling if the travel occurs during school hours), it is deemed to take place during school hours and no charge will be made.

If less than 50 percent of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours and we may charge for the activity; however, we will not charge if the activity is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the child is being prepared for at the academy, or part of religious education.

Residential visits: If the number of school sessions covered by the visit is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the number of half days (any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day) spent on the visit, we will not charge for the activity.

The remission of charges for board and lodging payments is the responsibility of the academies. These costs will be borne by our contingency funds.

Damaged or lost items

The Academies may charge parents for the cost of replacing items broken, damaged or lost due to their child's behaviour. Parents will not be taken to court for failure to pay such costs.

Remissions

We have set aside a small fund to enable families in financial difficulty to send their children on visits/activities. The funding is limited and there is no guarantee that all requests can be met. Assistance will be allocated on a needs basis, and if the full cost of the trip/activity

cannot be met through assistance funding and voluntary contributions, the trip/activity will be cancelled.

Parents in receipt of may request assistance with the costs of activities.

To request assistance, parents should contact the School Business Manager via St Germans Academy

Refunds Policy

The full contribution to an activity will be refunded if a child is absent due to illness.

If a trip has to be cancelled parental contributions will be refunded.

If contributions to an activity exceed the total cost a refund will be given, if excess is over £5 per child.

Excess income less than £5 per child will be paid into the schools' fund account.

Excess of expenditure will be funded by the schools' fund.