



Hyde Community College

Charging Policy

Approved by Governors:	F&P 8th March & Received by Full Governors 15th March 2017
Date to be reviewed:	March 2020

Charging Policy

1. Introduction 1.1 This charging policy has been compiled in line with DfES requirements and in accordance with s457 of the Education Act, 1996.

2. **School Trips**

2.1 When organising school activities, trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents/carers to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If sufficient voluntary contributions are not made a proposed event would be cancelled unless school is able to cover the shortfall arising from parents/carers unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution. If the event does proceed each child would be allowed to participate fully without discrimination irrespective of contribution circumstances.

Parents/Carers have a right to know how each individual trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities sometimes organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. The list is not exhaustive.

- Visits to museums
- Sporting activities – sometimes involving transport expenses
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Visits to the theatre
- School trips abroad
- Musical events

Parents/Carers will be given reasonable advanced notice of proposed visits/activities and school will provide details of how each individual voluntary contribution amount has been determined. Staged payments may be arranged where contributions are significant.

2.2 **Residential trips – Essential**

For residential trips which are essential to the National Curriculum, statutory RE or in preparation for prescribed examinations, a charge will be levied for board and lodging.

2.3 **Residential trips - Non-essential**

For residential trips which are not essential to the National Curriculum, statutory RE or in preparation for prescribed examinations:

- i) If the amount of school time on the trip is less than half of the total time of the trip, a charge will be levied up to the full cost of the trip.
- ii) If the amount of school time on the trip is half or more of the total time of the trip, a charge will be levied for board and lodging.

3. **Examination Entries**

3.1 A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for pupils where the school has not prepared the pupil for the examination (external candidates).

3.2 A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for pupils where

- The school has prepared the pupil for the examination and
- It considers that for educational reasons the pupil should not be entered and
- The pupil's parent/guardian wishes the pupil to be entered.

In these circumstances, if the pupil subsequently passes the examination, the school may refund the cost.

3.3 A charge may be levied for pupils resitting an examination.

3.4 A charge will be levied where a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the school paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.

3.5 The charge levied in 3.1-3.4 above will be the cost of the examination entry, plus any applicable centre fee.

4. **Materials & Textbooks**

4.1 Where a pupil or parent wishes to retain items produced as a result of art, craft and design, or design and technology, a charge may be levied for the cost of the materials used.

In the case of Food Technology, pupils usually provide their own ingredients, but if the pupil forgets, the school provides the ingredients and levies a charge.

Textbooks are provided free of charge, but in some subjects, additional revision resources are available, for which a charge is made.

5. **Music Tuition**

5.1 The school levies charges in respect of individual music tuition, and group music tuition up to and including 4 persons, if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil.

6. **Activities Outside School Hours**

6.1 No charge will be made for activities outside school hours that are part of the National Curriculum or religious education, or that form an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination.

6.2 If a pupil is prepared outside school hours for an examination that is not set out in regulations (the full list of which is available from the school), a charge will be levied for tuition and other costs.

6.3 For all other activities outside school hours, a charge up to the cost of the activity may be levied.

7. **Damage/Loss to Property**

7.1 A charge will be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of school property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials), the charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Headteacher may decide.

7.2 A charge will be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials) belonging to a third party, where the cost has been recharged to the school. The charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Headteacher may decide.

8. **Voluntary Contributions**

8.1 Where the school cannot levy charges, and it is not possible to make these additional activities within the resources ordinarily available to the school, the school may request or invite parents to make a contribution towards the cost of the trip. Pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request or invitation. However, where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, then it will be cancelled.

9. **Other charges**

The Headteacher, Finance Committee or Governing Body may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services e.g. for providing a copy of an OFSTED report.

10. **Remissions Policy**

10.1 The Headteacher, Finance Committee or Governing Body may remit in full or part charges in respect of a pupil, if it feels it is reasonable in the circumstances.

10.2 The Headteacher, Finance Committee or Governing Body may decide not to levy charges in respect of a particular activity, if it feels it is reasonable in the circumstances.

Approved by the Governing Body 15/03/2016