

Brandwood Community School

Charging & Remissions Policy

Approved by: Personnel & Finance Governor Committee October 2025
Review Date: October 2026

This charging and remissions policy has been determined by the Governors under section 457 Education Act (1996); which introduced new provisions on charging and remissions for school activities. The purposes of the provisions are to:

- ◇ Maintain the right to a free school education
- ◇ Ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within school time will be available to all learners, regardless of their parent or carer's ability or willingness to help meet the cost
- ◇ Give Local Authorities and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours
- ◇ Confirm that schools may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, either inside or outside school hours

The education provided by Brandwood Community School is free of charge if it takes place wholly or mainly during school hours (school hours being those hours when a school is in session and not including break or lunch times). However, the school reserves the right to seek voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any school activity, whether during or outside school hours, residential or non-residential.

Voluntary Contributions

When organising school trips or visits, which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of learners, the school invites parents and carers to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If the school does not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, the trips may be cancelled. If a trip goes ahead, it will include learners whose parents or carers have not paid any contribution. These learners are not treated differently from any others.

If a parent or carer wishes for their child to take part in a school trip or event but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we allow the learner to participate fully in the trip or activity. The school pays additional costs to support the visit and reduce the cost for all participants irrespective of income. Parents and carers have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents and carers. This list is not exhaustive:

- ◇ Visits to museums or places of educational interest, e.g. farms or zoos
- ◇ Sporting activities, which require transport expenses
- ◇ Outdoor adventure activities and residentials
- ◇ Visits to the theatre or cinema
 - Musical events
 - Enterprise events
 - Event days e.g. Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Winter Wonderland Surprise Day etc.
- ◇ KS2 Snacks

Strategies

1. No charge will be made for admitting learners to school
2. Transport or admission costs for swimming lessons during school hours will be met by the school
3. The school may request voluntary contributions towards the cost of some activities planned during school hours
4. Where parents and carers are asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of an activity, which takes place during school hours, or to school equipment or school funds, the contribution will be genuinely voluntary
5. Learners whose parents and carers are unable or unwilling to contribute will not be discriminated against
6. When there are insufficient voluntary contributions to make an activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, it will be cancelled

Outcomes

The funding of activities will be a clear and open process understood by all. We intend that our charging and remissions policy will be in line with that of the Local Authority and meet the law's requirements.

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