



Cheshire Academies Trust
Inspiring hearts and minds

Charging and Remissions Policy

Next Update: Autumn 2024

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The CAT Board and each Academy LGB is committed to the general principle of free education. CAT recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of activities, including Academy visits, residential experiences and clubs, can make towards all aspects of pupils' education. CAT would accordingly wish to promote and provide as far as possible such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the benefit of pupils in its academies.

CHARGES

CAT reserves the right to make a charge for the following activities which may from time to time be organised by an Academy:

Residential Activities held during Academy hours: charges may be made for the board and lodging element of those residential activities during Academy hours. Parents will be notified in advance of any such activities, which the Academy proposes to organise, and the estimated cost. Parental consent will be obtained for their children's participation in any such activities for which a charge may be made.

Any charge for a particular activity will be calculated by reference to the actual cost of providing the board and lodging for each pupil; no other costs will be covered by the charge. Any remission arrangements for such activities will be at the discretion of the LGB, EXCEPT in the circumstances described below.

Activities held outside Academy hours: The Academy may provide a range of such activities from time to time. These will sometimes include day and residential experiences. Charges may be made for these activities EXCEPT where they are provided to fulfil any requirements specified in the syllabus of a prescribed public examination or are required in order to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to religious education in which case they are not regarded as optional extras as such and charges cannot be made. (Board and lodging charges may still however be made for any residential activities subject to the remission arrangements described below.)

Parents will be notified in advance of any additional activities which the Academy proposes to organise and the estimated cost. Parental consent will be obtained if their children are to participate in any activities for which a charge may be made.

Any charge for a particular activity will be dependent upon the type of activity and its cost and the number of participants. This charge will not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity, divided equally by the number of pupils willing to participate. The cost of other pupils participating in the visit will not be included in the charge. The charge may however include an appropriate element for such things as:

- the pupil's travel costs;
- the pupil's board and lodging costs;
- materials, books, instruments and other equipment;
- non-teaching staff costs;
- entrance fees to museums, castles, theatres, etc;
- insurance costs;
- the expenses only of participating teachers engaged on a separate contract for services to provide the 'optional extra'.

Any remission arrangements for such activities will be at the discretion of the LGB, except in the circumstances described below:

Materials and Ingredients: a charge will only be made for any materials and ingredients relating to activities taking place during Academy hours where parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product, e.g. in Cooking classes or Design and Technology. Alternatively, parents may, in these circumstances, be asked to volunteer to provide the ingredients and materials prior to the activity taking place.

REMISSIONS

Where the parents of a pupil are in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding, Income Support or Universal Credit, the LGB will remit in full the cost of board and lodging for any residential activity the Academy organises for the pupil if the activity:

- takes place within Academy hours or,
- forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination or fulfils statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or religious education, irrespective of whether the activity takes place within or outside Academy hours.

Any other remission arrangements for a particular activity or pupil will be entirely at the discretion of the LGB. Any subsidy provided by the LGB will be met from the funds at its disposal.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Nothing in this policy statement precludes the LGB from inviting parents to make voluntary contributions for the benefit of the Academy or in support of any Academy activity, whether during or outside Academy hours. Any contributions sought will be entirely voluntary and pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents make a contribution in response to any invitation.

BREAKAGES AND DAMAGE TO ACADEMY PROPERTY

The LGB reserves the right to seek reparation from parents where their children deliberately cause breakages or damage to CAT property.

REVIEW

The Trust Board reserves the right to review and amend this charging policy statement from time to time, as appropriate.