



West Kirby
Grammar School

Charging and Remissions Policy

Administration Use:	
Statutory:	Yes
GB Committee:	Leadership & Management 1 Committee
Review:	27 June 2024
Next Review Date:	Summer Term 2025

Aims

West Kirby Grammar School aims to have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions and clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made.

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 449-462 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.

Definitions

Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities

Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy has been delegated to the Leadership and Management 1 Committee.

Monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the Director of Finance. This policy will be reviewed annually.

The Headteacher

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

Staff

Our staff are responsible for implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently. They are responsible for notifying the Headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies.

Parent/Carers

Parent/Carers are expected to notify staff or the Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

The current policy adopted by the Governing Body is set out below. The policy is split into the main sections where charges may apply.

Education

Where charges cannot be made;

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 specification for a prescribed public examination School or Religious Education.

What the School can charge for;

Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's Parent/Carer wish him or her to own them.

Education provided outside of School time that is **not part** of the National Curriculum, a specification for a prescribed public examination or Religious Education (an optional extra).

The entry fee for examination of any pupil who, in the Headteacher's judgement, has not prepared her/himself adequately by effort or study, or of any pupil who, without adequate reason, does not sit an examination for which they have been entered. A charge **will** be made for resit examinations.

Residential visits

Where charges cannot be made;

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 specification for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the School, or Religious Education.

Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from School accompanying pupils on a residential visit that **is not** an optional extra.

What the School can charge for;

We will charge for board and lodging on residential visits.

If the residential visit is an optional extra so an activity provided **outside of School time or in Activities Week** that is **not part** of the National Curriculum, a specification for a prescribed public examination or Religious Education then the following charges can apply:

- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide the optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically because of the optional extra).
- Non-teaching staff.
- Transport.

See Optional extras for more detail.

Music tuition

The music department peripatetic staff are able to charge for instrumental lessons outside the normal classroom activities. The charge will be in line with the music department policy for instrumental teaching staff. The school will review on an annual basis whether or not a subsidy from the school budget can be made, dependent upon the ability of the budget to afford it

Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, the School 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 specification for a prescribed public examination or 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 Academy/Governing Body has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)

- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit.
- 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

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

Voluntary contributions

As an exception the School is able to ask for voluntary contributions from Parent/Carers to fund activities **during School hours** which would not otherwise be possible.

Activities for which the School may ask Parent/Carers for voluntary contributions include School trips and sports activities.

There is no obligation for Parent/Carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their Parent/Carers are unable to pay. If the School is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit, then it will be cancelled.

Remissions

Parent/Carers in receipt of the following benefits will be **exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential trips** deemed to take place during School hours:

- 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
- Child 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)

If a Parent/Carer wishes to claim remission of charges, they should contact the Headteacher, in confidence, who will confirm eligibility and the total remission provided.

Please note that Sixth Form students in receipt of Bursary will be expected to utilise this funding to meet such costs. Each request will be assessed on an individual basis should they contact the Headteacher in confidence.

For **high cost optional extra trips**, such as a ski trip taking place in the Easter holiday, it is **highly unlikely** that remission for charges can be provided as the School would be unable to subsidise the high cost of an individual place.

The Governors acknowledge that on occasion, a family may be experiencing short term financial difficulties but is not in receipt of Free School Meals. Families in this situation should contact the

Headteacher, in confidence, if they are struggling to fund the cost of a trip, who will consider whether they are able to provide any financial assistance towards the costs.

Refunds

The School aims to operate all chargeable activities at nil cost in order that Education Skills and Funding Agency funding can be prioritised to teaching and learning for students; however the School fully meets the Department for Education 'Charging for School Activities' guidelines and respects that voluntary contributions may only be requested in certain circumstances.

The School encourages Parent/Carers to make voluntary donations to the School & Community Fund.

Parent/Carers will be notified of any unexpected activity surplus of £10 or more per student (excluding non-refundable deposits) and if they request a refund via a Microsoft Form with 20 working days the refund will be made.

In the event that a Parent/Carer does not request a refund within 20 working days it will be deemed that they have consented for the refund to be donated to the School & Community Fund.

Any unexpected surplus of less than £10 per student (excluding non-refundable deposits) will be deemed to be donated to the School & Community Fund.

The wording to be used to notify Parent/Carers is shown in Appendix A.

Appendix A.

Wording for Trip Letters

To be included as standard in letters to Parent/Carers for trips taking place during School hours, where a voluntary contribution is requested, example: Trip to a local Museum/Art Gallery

Dear Parent/Carer

The School is organising a [Trip/Visit/Practical Activity] to [place] on [date(s)].

The cost of the trip is £XX which will cover transport, ticket prices, staffing and administration costs.

A voluntary contribution is requested from Parent/Carers. However, please note that if insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund the trip, or the School cannot fund it from some other source, then it will be cancelled.

Pupils are reminded that only those who display exemplary behaviour prior to the trip, will be allocated a place.

Payment for this [Trip/Visit/Practical Activity] should be made by [date].

OR...

Optional paragraph – Payment may be made in full, or you may pay for this [Trip/Visit/Practical Activity] in instalments if you prefer. Payments must be received on or by the date as set out in the instalment schedule below –

Payment 1	£XX	dd/mm/yyyy
Payment 2	£XX	dd/mm/yyyy
Payment 3	£XX	dd/mm/yyyy
Final payment	£XX	dd/mm/yyyy

Please give consent and make your payment(s) for [trip/visit/activity name] to the School Finance Office or via our online payment system at [Login \(scopay.com\)](https://scopay.com). There is also a link to Online Services at the bottom of our website. If you have not set up an account with you will need to do so before you can make payment, please refer to the letter received previously quoting your username and password or contact a member of the Finance Office if you need assistance with this.

Name _____ Form _____

- I wish my child to take part in the proposed visit to (place) on (day/month/year).
- I agree/ do not agree to pay the voluntary contribution of £XX

Signed: _____ Date: _____ (By the Parent/Carer)

Please return the reply slip to a member of the Finance Office.

To be included as standard in letters to Parent/Carers for optional extra trips that are wholly outside of School hours, example: Trip to a local Dance/Theatre evening event

The cost per student for the trip is £X. This trip is provided as an optional extra. The full amount must ultimately be paid in order for your child to be eligible to attend.

To be sent to Parent/Carers, by the Finance Team, in the event of the activity making an unexpected surplus of £10 or more per student

Dear Parent/Carer

The recent [Trip/Visit/Practical Activity] to [place] on [date(s)] has made an unexpected surplus of £X per student.

The School encourages parents to make voluntary donations to the School & Community Fund and in the event that an activity makes an unexpected surplus of £10 or more per student (excluding nonrefundable deposits) parents are requested to contribute the amount to the School & Community Fund.

In accordance with our Charging and Remissions Policy if you would like a refund of the surplus please complete the Microsoft Form within 20 working days. In the event that you do not respond within 20 working days it will be deemed that you have consented for the refund amount to be donated to the School & Community Fund.