



Charging and Remissions Policy

Approved by BLP Committee: March 2018
Adopted by Swillington Local Governing Board
Review March 2021

For Review: March 2021

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Statement of intent

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils, 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.

1. Legal framework

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

- Education Act 1996 sections 449-462
- The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010
- DfE (2014) 'Charging for School Activities'
- DfE (2017) 'Governance Handbook'
- Brigshaw Learning Partnership (BLP) Funding Agreement'

2. Charging for education

2.1. 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 pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination re-sits, if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sits at the school.

2.2. We may charge parents for the following:

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

3. Optional extras

3.1. 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 pupil is being prepared for at the school.
 - Religious education.
- Examination entry fees where the pupil has not been prepared for the examination at the school
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit (this will be remitted in full for families in receipt of certain benefits if the majority of the trip is in school)

time, part of the national curriculum, religious education or syllabus of a prescribed examination)

- Extended day services offered to pupils
- Transport, other than:
 1. Transport arranged by the LA for the pupil to be provided with education
 2. Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or BLP has arranged for pupils to be educated.
 3. Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school

3.2. When calculating the cost of optional extras, the school 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

3.3. The school will not charge in excess of the actual cost of providing the optional extra divided by the number of participating pupils. We will not charge a subsidy for any pupils 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.

3.4. 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.

4. Examination fees

4.1. We may charge for examination fees if:

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

5. Examination re-sits

5.1. Where a pupil is entered for a second or subsequent attempt at an examination, we will pay the fee if the pupil has prepared for the examination at the school.

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

6. Voluntary contributions

- 6.1. When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience, we may ask for voluntary contributions towards the cost of the school activity. If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, it may have to be cancelled, 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.
- 6.2. We will strive to ensure that parents do not feel pressurised into making voluntary contributions.

7. Music tuition

- 7.1. Children studying music as part of the normal school curriculum will not be charged for this. However, 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 pupil's parents.
- 7.2. The charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff providing the tuition.
- 7.3. Charges cannot be made:
- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum
 - If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
 - For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

8. Transport

- 8.1. We will not charge for:
- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the LA has a statutory obligation to provide the transport.
 - Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated.
 - Transporting pupils to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for the examination at the school.
 - Transport provided for an educational visit during the school day.

9. Residential visits

9.1. 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 pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for teachers accompanying pupils on visits.

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

9.3. Parents will be exempt from the board and lodging costs of residential trips which are classified as being during school time if they can prove that they are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) did not exceed £16,190 in the previous financial year
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance

10. Damaged or lost items

The school may charge parents for the cost of replacing items broken, damaged or lost due to their child's behaviour.

11. Remissions

11.1. 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.

11.2. Parents in receipt of any of the following benefits may request assistance with the costs of activities:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) did not exceed £16,190 in the previous financial year
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance

11.3. To request assistance, parents should contact the school business manager.

12. COMPLAINTS

An individual wishing to make a complaint about anything relating to this policy should refer to the BLP Complaint Policy published on the BLP Website.

13. EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT

We will do all we can to ensure that this policy does not discriminate, directly or indirectly. We shall do this through regular monitoring and evaluation of our policies. On review we shall assess and consult relevant stakeholders on the likely impact of our policies on the promotion of all aspects of equality, as laid down in the Equality Act (2010). This will include, but not necessarily be limited to: race; gender; sexual orientation; disability; ethnicity; religion; cultural beliefs and pregnancy/maternity.

14. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed **every 3 years**.