

Greenhill School



Charging and Remissions Policy

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1.0 Introduction

Greenhill School is a small Cardiff Council maintained special school for secondary aged pupils.

1.1 This policy has been formulated in accordance with Cardiff County Council's guidance on charging and remissions.

1.2 The aim of the policy is to set out what charge will be levied for activities and the letting of school premises, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents. The policy has been drawn up in accordance with Sections 449 – 462 of The Education Act 1996, which sets out the law regarding what charges can and cannot be made for activities in schools maintained by local authorities.

1.3 The Governing Body of Greenhill School is responsible for determining the content of the policy, and the Headteacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the Headteacher and Governing Body.

1.4 The Governing Body acknowledges the right of every student to receive free school education and understands that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time must be made available to all students regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet that cost.

1.5 This policy will be reviewed annually.

2.0 Charges to Pupils

Parents / Carers may be asked to provide items of personal equipment intended to be used solely by their child.

2.1 Prohibition of Charges

2.1.1 The Governing Body of the School recognises that legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- education provided wholly or mainly during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment);
- admission to school for children of compulsory school age;
- education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupils is being prepared for at the school;
- tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at 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-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school;
- 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, or 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 those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit;
- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the LA has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting pupils to other premises where the Governing Body or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he/she has been prepared for that examination at the school; and
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit which is part of the National Curriculum.

2.2 Charges

It will be necessary to determine for each of the following whether the Governing Body intends to make a charge.

Charges may be made for other activities known as "optional extras". Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge may be made for providing material, books instruments or equipment as follows:

(a) Examinations

At Greenhill we want all of our learners to achieve success in external / public exams.

No charge will be made for entry to a public examination or for any additional access arrangements a learner may need to meet their individual special needs.

Candidates will not be expected to pay for re-sit examinations.

(b) Finished Products

All items made as part of timetabled lessons such as Art, Cooking and Woodwork are provided without charge.

Where parents / carers have expressed a wish in advance to have a finished product made at school (e.g. in craft, art or food and nutrition lessons), a charge will be made at cost price. Parents will be informed of this charge in advance.

(c) Music Tuition

No charge will be levied if the tuition is provided as part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination or is required by the National Curriculum.

Parents of pupils wishing to take the opportunity to be involved in music tuition, whether in or out of school hours, will be informed of the cost and will be billed termly.

(d) Board and Lodging on residential trips

The board and lodging element of approved residential activities, even when taking place largely in school hours. The cost will not exceed the actual cost of the provision, and prior written confirmation from the parent is required that he/she is willing to pay the charge.

Where possible the total cost of residential trips is subsidised through specialist grant applications and charitable donations to the Friends of Greenhill.

(e) Breakages

The school will charge for breakages and replacements as a result of loss or damages caused willfully or negligently by pupils. Each incident should be dealt with on its own merit and at the school's discretion.

(f) Extra-curricular activities and school clubs

2.3 Remissions

The Governing Body will not wish to see any child disadvantaged by virtue of the fact that their parent(s) are unable to pay. The Governing Body will:

- Remit all charges otherwise payable by parents of a pupil in respect of board and lodging, provided for their child pursuant to the charging policy, for the duration of a residential trip if the parents meet the criteria for the 'benefits' that qualify them for free school lunch eligibility purposes;
- Give consideration to remitting all or part of any charges payable by a parent of a pupil in all other instances pursuant to its charging policy.

Parents who can prove that they are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having free meals entitlement, be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging of a residential trip:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Any other benefit or allowance, or entitled to any tax credit under the Tax Credits Act 2002 or element of such a tax credit, as may be prescribed by regulations from time to time for any period wholly or partly comprised in the time spent on the trip. Currently, the following are prescribed:
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
 - Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 (i.e. children who are eligible to receive free school meals);
 - Income related employment and support allowance; and
- Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit
- Receipt of Universal Credit.

When arranging a chargeable activity, such parents will be invited in confidence for the remission of charges in full or in part. The Headteacher, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Governing Body will make authorisation for such remission.

2.4 Voluntary Contributions

In this section, the Governing Body has to determine whether or not voluntary contributions are to be requested from parents.

(Option A)

Parents may be invited to make a voluntary contribution of between £1 and £25 for the following:

- (a) Outdoor pursuits trips
- (b) Cinema / theatre trips / concerts
- (c) Entry to sports matches

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request for a voluntary contribution in no way represents a charge. In addition, the following will be made clear to parents:

- the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no legal obligation to pay;
- pupils of parents who cannot contribute will not be treated any differently;
- the continuance of an activity may depend upon voluntary contributions;
- registered pupils at the school will not be excluded or treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the Headteacher. Requests made for voluntary contributions do not include any element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

Where a request for voluntary contributions is included in the policy, the Governing Body should set out the purposes to which the contributions will be put.

Voluntary contributions will be used to:

- Help provide camping equipment and specialist clothing
- Help with funding entrance fees e.g. cinema
- Help with purchasing tickets
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3.0 Charging for the use of School Premises

Due to the nature of the school site any requests will need the approval of the Premises Sub Committee.

The governors have not approved any non-school activities / lettings for 2017/2018.

- 3.1 The school budget cannot be used to subsidise non-school activities, and community use of the school must at least cover the cost of letting

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the school to community groups. The charges set by the school cover the cost of opening the school, including the cost of caretaker time and utilities.

Date of policy approval: 15/3/18

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Policy approved: S. Denton Deputy Chair
(Chairperson of Governing Body)