

Date Policy Reviewed	Next Policy Review Due	Author
May 2023	May 2024	 Central Bedfordshire Council

The Chiltern School Vision

Where we learn and achieve together, where we dare to be different. Our vision is to be a centre of excellence, to inspire, innovate and promote the best practice in inclusive pedagogy, that is recognised locally, regionally and nationally for SEND development and provision, where we put the pupils at the heart of all decision making. Our children will leave being happy, confident, inquisitive and independent.

General

The Chiltern School, subject to the limited exceptions referred to in this advice, will not charge for education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment).

The school will inform parents on low incomes and in receipt of the benefits listed at the end of this document of the support available to them when being asked for contributions towards the cost of school visits.

School charging

The school cannot and will not charge for the following:

- an admission application;
- 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 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;
- instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent;

- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school; and
- examination resit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

The school **can** charge for:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them;
- optional extras (see page below);
- music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see page 6);
- certain early years provision;
- community facilities

Optional extras

Charges may be made for some activities that are known as 'optional extras'. Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge **can** be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment. **Optional extras are:**

- education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - a) part of the national curriculum;
 - b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or
 - c) part of 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 local authority or governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education);
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit;
- trips and events that are provided during the school day that are not part of the curriculum;
- extended day services offered to pupils (for example breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

In 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, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and
- 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.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils must not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. It must not therefore include an element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

Furthermore, in cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate. Therefore, no charge can be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

Voluntary contributions

The school is **allowed** by law to ask for or voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities. However, if any activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the governing body or the Headteacher will make this clear to parents at the outset. The governing body or Headteacher will **always** make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution.

No child will ever be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it will be cancelled. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will still be given an equal chance to take part in the activity concerned.

Music Tuition

Although the law states that, in general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to that rule.

The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 set out the circumstances in which charges can be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, including vocal tuition. They allow charging for tuition in larger groups than was previously the case.

Accordingly, the school will charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or to groups of any size, where the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent. Charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff who provide the tuition.

No charge will be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22(l) of the Children Act 1989).

Transport

The schools **will not** charge for:

- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when s/he has been prepared for that examination at the school; and
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

Charging and remissions policies

No charges will be made outside this charging policy.

There will be no remissions available outside those set out in this charging policy.

Residential visits, trips and events

The school **will not** charge for:

- education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours;⁵
- 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.

Schools **can** charge for:

- board and lodging in the case of residential off-site visits, but the charge will never exceed the actual cost
- full or partial cost of day trips that are considered to be 'optional extras' and not part of the curriculum
- full or partial cost participation in an event being organised by the school that is not part of the curriculum

When the school informs parents about a forthcoming visit, trip or event, the Headteacher will make it clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of certain benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging. The list of benefits to which this applies can be found at the end of this policy document.

Parents should be informed that if they are not in receipt of any of the benefits listed below

but feel they are unable to pay the full amount they should contact the office so that other options can be discussed.

Pupil Premium

Pupils whose families are in receipt of the benefits listed below are eligible for free school meals. The school receives Pupil Premium funding for all pupils eligible for free school meals (and other circumstances e.g. looked after children, armed forces families etc.) This funding can be used to cover the charges that would normally be passed on to families.

Charitable Fund

The Chiltern School Charitable Fund can be used to cover the costs where full payment has not been received from the parent and where Pupil Premium funding is not available. This will ensure that the events can still go ahead where it cannot be funded by the main school budget.

General information and definitions

Education partly during school hours

Where an activity takes place partly during and partly outside school hours, there is a basis for determining whether it is deemed to take place either inside or outside school hours. However, a charge will only be made for the activity outside school hours if it is not part of the national curriculum, not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school and not part of religious education.

If 50% or more of the time spent on the activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to take place during school hours. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day.

Where less than 50% of the time spent on an activity falls during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours.

Non-residential activities

If 50% or more of the time spent on the activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to take place during school hours. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day.

Where less than 50% of the time spent on an activity falls during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours. For example, an excursion might require pupils to leave school an hour before the school day ends, but the activity does not end until late in the evening.

Residential visits

If the number of school sessions taken up by the visit is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half days spent on the visit, it is deemed to have taken place during school hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening). Whatever the starting and finishing times of the school day, regulations require that the school day is divided into 2 sessions. A 'half day' means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day.

EXAMPLE 1 : Pupils are away from noon on Wednesday to 9pm on Sunday. This counts as 9 half days including 5 school sessions, so the visit is deemed to have taken place during school hours.

EXAMPLE 2 : Pupils are away from school from noon on Thursday until 9pm on Sunday. This counts as 7 half days including 3 school sessions, so the visit is deemed to have taken place outside school hours.

Benefits

- 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 (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Anyone in receipt of these benefits should ensure that they are registered for free school meals so that the school receives Pupil Premium funding.