



Charging and Remissions Policy

Philosophy

There are no compulsory charges of any aspect of the main school curriculum. However the principle of asking for voluntary contributions will continue. It should be recognised that some activities which enhance the curriculum process cannot continue without these funds.

Any charges made by the school will meet the requirement of the Education Act 1996. The Governors' endorse the guiding principles contained in the Act, in particular that no child should have its access to the curriculum limited by charges.

Aims

We aim to:

- To make a broad programme of trips and activities accessible to as many students as possible.
- To establish and maintain a fair and coherent system of charging within the constraints of the school budget.
- If there are individual cases of genuine financial hardship the school will endeavour to see that the student is able to participate in most activities, subject to the constraints of the budget. Any insurance costs will be included in charges for trips and activities. A request in writing to the Headteacher would be required for consideration. Complete confidence will be observed in such matters.

To achieve our aims we will:

- Charges will not be made for any activities which form part of a prescribed examination syllabus, or are in fulfilment of National Curriculum requirements.
- Activities which are wholly or mainly within school hours should not normally be chargeable. However, instrumental music tuition and/or loan of instruments may be charged unless it is part of a public examination or National Curriculum course.
- In practical subjects parents may be asked for the full or partial cost of material or ingredients if they have indicated in advance that they wish to own the finished product.
- Voluntary contributions may be invited for trips which take place mainly within school hours. No child may be excluded because of inability to pay but the school is entitled to cancel the trip if the level of contributions does not meet its budgetary requirements.
- Trips which take place mainly out of school hours are chargeable.

- Board, lodging and travel costs will be charged on residential trips, subject to statutory exceptions.
- The cost of examination entries for subjects taught within the school will normally be met by the school. In cases where candidates have failed to meet the school's entry criteria but still wish to be entered they may be asked to pay entry fees.
- The Governors will expect parents to refund the school wholly or to an agreed sum, if their children cause damage to school property, or misuse or lose school materials or books or fail to complete examination courses where fees have been incurred. This also applies when students fail to take examinations, unless suitable medical evidence can be provided.
- Extra Curricular Trips will go through the FoA account.

Success Criteria

- Students will not be charged for activities which form part of the National Curriculum.
- Students will be offered a wide range of activities both free of charge and with voluntary contributions where necessary.
- Parents are charged for their children's wilful damage to school property.
- Parents understand the charging policy.
- School trips run when voluntary contributions are asked for.

Approved by Governing Body of Ashcroft High School:	June 2017
Policy Review date:	September 2018
Governors' Committee	Full Governing Body
SLT staff responsible	Mrs J Ellins
Statutory Policy: Yes / No	Yes