



Charging & Remissions Policy

Date approved:	January 2015 (Reviewed May 2017)
Approved by:	New Generation Trust Board
Review date:	May 2018

Purpose

- To ensure students are treated fairly in line with the Education Act 1996 and the School Admissions Code.
- To facilitate access by the children at Hope Community School to the range of school activities and school visits, within and outside of school hours

Education

Hope Community School **does not** charge for:

- Admissions applications
- Education provided during school hours (including supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment) with the exception of basic equipment as stated in the Home School Agreement.

Hope Community School **can** charge for:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the student's parent wishes them to own;
- Optional extras (see next section); and
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (currently not available)

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:

- part of the National Curriculum
- transport that is not required to take the child to school or to other premises where the school has arranged for the child to be provided with education
- board and lodging for a child on a residential visit.
- Part of religious education
- Extended day services offered to pupils (breakfast club, afterschool club, homework club, etc)

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
- 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
- the cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation

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

In situations where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge will not include the cost of alternative provision for those children who do not wish to participate. Therefore Hope Community School will not charge for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying children 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

- If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, Hope Community School Council or the Principal will make this clear to parents at the outset, including stipulating to parents/carers that there is no obligation to make any contribution.
- Hope Community School will not exclude a child from an activity simply because her/his parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.
- If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, then it will be cancelled.
- If a parent/carer is unwilling or unable to pay, their daughter/son will still be given an equal chance to go on the visit. Hope Community School does not operate on a “first come, first serve” basis. If the total cost of a visit supersedes the voluntary contributions collected, a decision will be made by the Principal, in liaison with the Business Manager, as to whether the School Voluntary Fund can fund the cost difference.
- The policy for allocating places should be made clear to parents/carers by the visit organiser at the outset.
- When making requests for voluntary contributions to the school funds, parents will under no circumstances be made to feel pressurised into paying, as it is voluntary and not compulsory.
- Direct debit or standing order mandates will not be sent to parents/carers when requesting for contributions.

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents and carers to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions it may not be possible for the visit to go ahead.

If a visit goes ahead, it may include children whose parents or carers have not made any contribution. We do not treat these children differently to others.

If a parent or carer wishes their child to take part in a school visit event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the visit or activity.

Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents and carers have a right to know how each visit is funded and the school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school which may require voluntary contributions from Parents and Carers. This list is not exclusive but may include:

These additional activities may include:

- Educational visits
- Sporting activities
- After school clubs
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Visits to or by theatre company

If we are unable to raise sufficient funding through voluntary contributions, the visit or event may have to be cancelled and that aspect of the curriculum would have to be covered in other ways.

Residential

Schools **cannot** 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, 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 and the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

When a school informs parents about a forthcoming visit, they should make it clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances;
- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- 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) does not exceed £16,190 (financial year 2013/14);
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- an income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

Transport

Hope Community School will **not** charge for:

- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

Remissions

- Circumstances in which Hope Community School propose to remit, wholly or partly, any charges which would otherwise be payable in accordance with the above Charging Policy, will be approached and assessed strictly on a case-by-case basis.
- Considerations will be made in line with the relevant legislative framework, ensuring fairness to all students.
- The objectives within the School Development Plan, budgetary constraints and other relevant circumstances will impact on remissions.