

THE CHARTER SCHOOL

CHARGING AND REMISSION POLICY

AIM OF THE SCHOOL

The aim of The Charter School is to provide an excellent education for children from the local community in a safe, supportive learning environment, where people are valued and make positive contributions to the school, and where pupils go on to become responsible, independent members of society.

PRINCIPLES

The Charter School believe that we should offer our pupils as many varied learning experiences as possible. We believe that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered and, at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

PURPOSES

Where visits are arranged that are an integral part of a particular syllabus parents will be asked to contribute towards the cost. However, legislation states that a pupil should not be debarred from compulsory visits if a parent is not able to contribute. In cases of family hardship, parents may apply, in confidence, to the Head Teacher for exemption from such contributions. However, we hope that parents will realise that a trip is not viable if sufficient contributions are not forthcoming.

For other activities which enhance pupils' learning experiences but are not compulsory elements of a particular syllabus, charges will be made. Such activities include music tuition, field trips, residential, overseas and activity trips, visits to businesses, concerts, galleries, and theatre visits. It also covers charges related to examination fees in specific cases. The table overleaf indicates the charges that will be made.

GUIDELINES

Parents who are eligible for Free School Meals or qualify for Pupil Premium through Ever6 will automatically receive a 30% discount (above £25) on all non-essential trips and 50% (above £25) on all essential trips. For further information on Pupil Premium eligibility please see the Pupil Premium statement on the school website or contact finance @charter.southwark.sch.uk.

Activity	Comment
Individual instrumental music tuition that is over and above the national curriculum, and/or an approved examination syllabus.	A charge will be made per lesson. This will be reviewed when the charges made to the school by the music service increase. Pupils eligible for Pupil Premium could be eligible for a reduction of fees. Any examination and accompanist fees are paid by parents.
Transport to work experience	Parents will pay directly (except for statemented pupils where the statement specifically refers to transport).
Activities outside school time not related to statutory duties.	Charges will be levied. Pupil Premium discount applies.
Board and lodging on residential visits.	Parents are to be charged, except in cases of statutory remission where families receive benefits. Pupil premium discount applies.
Re-scrutiny of exam results.	Parents to pay all charges.
Exam entry for prescribed exam for which pupils have not been prepared by school.	Parents to pay all charges.
Entry for an exam which is not on prescribed list where preparation takes place outside school hours.	A charge will be made.
Recovery of wasted exam fees.	Parents to be charged.
Compulsory educational visits and field trips.	Parents will be asked for a voluntary contribution. Pupil Premium discount applies.
Wilful damage or vandalism	Parents to be charged for repair or replacement.

