



Bell Lane Academy

Charging and Remissions Policy

Updated November 2016
Review date November 2017

The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced new provisions on charging for school/academy activities. The purposes of these provisions are:

- to maintain the right to a free school education.
- to ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within normal school/academy time should be available to all pupils, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
- to give educational authorities and schools/academies the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school/academy hours.
- to confirm that schools/academies may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school/academy or in support of any activity organised by the school/academy, either in or outside school/academy hours.

The Governing Body believes that educational visits and specialist visitors are an extension to, and an enrichment of, the curriculum. It has adopted the LA Policy of Charging for School/Academy Activities, which allows the academy to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to support these activities.

Introduction

All education during academy hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual music tuition.

Voluntary contributions

- When organising academy trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the academy invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid the full contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.
- If a parent wishes their child to take part in an academy trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution we ask that they make an appointment to discuss this with the headteacher. Following this meeting we will allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the academy pays additional costs in order to support a visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The academy provides this information on request. In the case of residential trips when the academy has to make a commitment in advance, any deposit received from the parents will be non-refundable.
- The following is a list of the type of additional activities organised by the academy, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras':
 - > visits to museums
 - > sporting activities which require transport expenses
 - > visits to the theatre
 - > visits to places of interest
 - > musical events
 - > visitors such as authors and actors

Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

Pupil Premium Funding

Money is available to allow children to attend Breakfast Club and after-hours activities free of charge on request.

Residential visits

If the academy organises a residential visit in academy hours or partly in academy hours, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we make a charge to cover the costs of any workshops, board, lodging and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to speak in confidence to the Headteacher regarding a payment plan.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal academy curriculum. We do not charge for this. There is a charge for individual music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum.

Technology

In order to allow for children to take home models that they construct rather than dismantling them, a small charge may be made to cover the cost of materials.

Food Technology

We may ask for a donation towards the cost of ingredients for food technology lessons when a finished product is to be taken home.

Swimming

The academy organises swimming lessons for children in Year 4 (on occasion children in Year 5 and 6 may also be offered this activity).

These take place in academy hours and are part of the National Curriculum. We currently make no charge for swimming lessons.