

Leverton Church of England Academy



Charging & Remissions Policy

Statement of intent

Leverton Church of England Academy is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils, regardless of financial circumstances, and has established the following policy and procedures to ensure that no child is discriminated against by our offering of school trips, activities and educational extras. This policy sets out how we will do our best to ensure a good range of activities and visits are offered while trying to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities available.

In addition, we are committed to adhering to legal requirements regarding charging for school activities, and meeting all statutory guidance provided by the DfE.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to:

- Education Act 1996
- The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007
- Freedom of information act 2000
- The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010
- DfE (2018) 'Charging for School Activities'
- DfE (2020) 'Governance Handbook'
- 'The Trust Funding agreement
- ESFA (2021) Academy trust handbook 2021

2. Charging for education

2.1. The school will not charge parents for:

- Admission applications.
- 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 national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education.
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, unless provided at the request of the pupil's parents.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination re-sits, if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sits at the school.

3. Optional extras

3.1. The school may charge for the following optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - Part of the national curriculum.
 - Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
 - Religious education.
- Materials, books, instruments or equipment, where they desire their child to own them

- Optional extras
- Certain early years provision
- The use of community facilities and other commercial activities
- Provision of information within the scope of freedom of information
- Transport, other than that required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the trust board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education.
- Music and vocal tuition (in certain circumstances)
- Transport, other than that arranged by the LA for the pupil to be provided with education
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils
- Early years provision
- Use of community facilities

3.2. When calculating the cost of optional extras, the school will only take into account the following:

- Materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in relation to the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- The employment of non-teaching staff
- The cost of teaching staff (including teaching assistants) under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide vocal tuition or tuition in playing a musical instrument, where tuition is an optional extra.

3.3. The school will not charge in excess of the actual cost of providing the optional extra divided by the number of participating pupils. We will not charge a subsidy for any pupils wishing to participate but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge. If a proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, we will not charge for the cost of alternative provision for those not participating.

3.4. Participation in any optional activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Therefore, parental agreement is a pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra.

4. Voluntary contributions

4.1. We may, from time-to-time, ask for voluntary contributions towards the benefit of the school or school activities. If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, we will make this clear to parents at the outset. We will also make it clear that there is no obligation for parents to make a contribution, and notify parents whether assistance is available.

- 4.2. No child will be excluded from an activity simply because their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will still be given an equal opportunity to take part in the activity. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund an activity, and the school cannot fund it via another source, the activity will be cancelled.
- 4.3. We will strive to ensure that parents do not feel pressurised into making voluntary contributions.

5. Music tuition

- 5.1. Music tuition is the only exception to the rule that all education provided during school hours must be free. The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 allow for charges to be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size – provided that the tuition is at the request of the pupil's parents.
- 5.2. Charging will not be made if the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum.
- 5.3. The charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff providing the tuition.
- 5.4. No charge will be made in respect of pupils who are LAC.

6. Transport

- 6.1. We will not charge for:
 - Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the LA has a statutory obligation to provide the transport.
 - Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated.
 - Transporting pupils to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for the examination at the school.

7. Residential visits

- 7.1. We will not 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, 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 teachers accompanying pupils on visits.
- 7.2. We may charge for board and lodging – but the charge will not exceed the actual cost.
- 7.3. Parents will be exempt from board and lodging costs if they can prove that they are in receipt of one or more of the following 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 State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided that they are 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 four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if they apply on or after 1 April 2018, their household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits they receive)

8. Education partly during school hours

- 8.1. If 50 percent or more of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours (including time spent travelling if the travel occurs during school hours), it is deemed to take place during school hours and no charge will be made.
- 8.2. If less than 50 percent of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours and we may charge for the activity; however, we will not charge if the activity is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- 8.3. Whatever the start and finish times of the school day, regulations require that the school day is divided into two sessions. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day.
- 8.4. **Residential visits:** If the number of school sessions covered by the visit is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the number of half days (any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day) spent on the visit, we will not charge for the activity.
- 8.5. The remission of charges for board and lodging payments is the responsibility of the school. These costs will be borne by our contingency funds.
- 8.6. Any charges for extended day services will be optional.

9. Damaged or lost items

- 9.1. The school may charge parents for the cost of replacing items broken, damaged or lost due to their child's behaviour. Parents will not be taken to court for failure to pay such costs.

10. Remissions

- 10.1. We have set aside a small fund to enable families in financial difficulty to send their children on visits/activities. The funding is limited and there is no guarantee that all

requests can be met. Assistance will be allocated on a needs basis, and if the full cost of the trip/activity cannot be met through assistance funding and voluntary contributions, the trip/activity will be cancelled.

10.2. Parents in receipt of any of the following benefits may request assistance with the costs of activities:

- 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 State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided that they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and they have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run on – paid for four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
- Universal Credit – if they apply on or after 1 April 2018, their household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits they receive)

10.3. To request assistance, parents should contact **Mrs Zoe Sirrell (Office Manager)** via 01427 880470 or finance@levertonacademy.co.uk

11. School Trip Refunds

11.1 All initial deposits for school trips will be non – refundable. Parents will be informed of this when they are provided with the initial information about the trip.

11.2 In the event that the school has to cancel a trip due to foreseen circumstances, parental contributions will be refunded.

11.3 In the event that a school trip is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, is at the Headteacher discretion as to what happens with the parental contributions for the trip. The Headteacher will discuss the options with then Governing Body, which could include carrying forward the money until the trip takes place, transferring the money to another trip or refunding the parents.

11.4 In the event that a school trip is postponed due to unforeseen circumstances, is at the Headteacher discretion as to what happens with the parental contributions for the trip. The Headteacher will discuss the options with then Governing Body, which could include carrying forward the money until the trip takes place, transferring the money to another trip or refunding the parents.

11.5 In the event that a decision is made to postpone a trip due to foreseen circumstances, is at the Headteacher discretion as to what happens with the parental contributions for the trip. The Headteacher will discuss the options with

then Governing Body, which could include carrying forward the money until the trip takes place, transferring the money to another trip or refunding the parents.

11.6 In the event that a pupil or their parents cancel the pupil's place on a trip, it is at the Headteacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given. The Headteacher will consult the governing body on the matter, taking into account the reason for cancellation, whether the school will be reimbursed for the pupil's place on the trip and whether the place can offered to another pupil.

11.7 Where a pupil or their parents have previously cancelled a place on a trip and received a full refund, the school has the right refuse to allow the pupil to attend future trips and visits.

11.8 In the event that a pupil cannot attend a trip at the last minute, e.g. due to illness it is at the Headteacher's discretion as to whether a refund is given. The Headteacher will consult with the Governing Body on the matter, taking into account whether the school will be reimbursed for the pupil's place on the trip and if the place can be offered to another pupil.

11.9 Once trip arrangements have been booked and confirmed, if contributions exceed the total cost of the trip, a refund will be given where the excess is greater than £5 per pupil, if the excess is less £5 per pupil this will be paid into the schools account.

11.10 Excess expenditure will be subsidised by the school fund.

11.11 The school will deal with cancellations and refunds on a case by case basis, ensuring that all pupils and their families are treated equally.

11.12 If a parent wishes to make a complaint about refunds, they can do so via the Complaints procedure policy.

12. Income Generation

In line with the ESFA's the trust will set the fees for chargeable services at full cost, and reserves the right to apply an additional rate of return when in a commercial environment.

13. Freedom of information policy and publication scheme

The school's freedom of Information Policy and Freedom of Information Publication Scheme sets out where fees may be charged for the provision of information.

14. Monitoring and review

14.1. This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body, Headteacher and Office Manager.