



Charging Policy for School Activities

September 2025

Charges for School Activities

In accordance with Sections 450-461 of the 1996 Education Act, the Academy Committee makes no charge for education or educational activities provided during school hours as part of the published curriculum. However, the Academy Committee recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities can make towards the personal and social development of learners. The Academy Committee therefore reserves the right to levy charges for the following activities arranged by the school, which will not exceed the actual cost of the activity. The Academy Committee recognises that learners who are in the care of the Local Authority are entitled to participate in all school arranged activities free of charge, as a budget allocation is made direct from the Government to cover this. Should the required amount be substantial, such as may be required for a residential visit, then the Local Authority holds monies to provide additional funds to the school to allow the learner to participate, although this may not cover the whole amount.

Optional extra activities outside school hours

The full cost for activities such as specialist sporting instruction and residential visits, which take place out of school hours may be charged to parents provided that they are not a necessary part of the National Curriculum, examination syllabus or Religious Education, where no charge will be made. In fixing the charge the school may take account of the costs for travel, lodging for supervisory and associated supply cover.

Residential visits partly or fully during school hours

No charge will be made for such visits other than board and lodging charges. Academy Committee members recognise that they will provide full remission from the charge for board and lodging to learners whose families are in receipt of Income Support, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Guaranteed Element of State Pension, support under part vi of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit (providing that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income, as assessed by Inland Revenue, does not exceed £16,190), Pupil or Forces

Premium Funding. Where activities are organised and charged by a third party eg: independent tour operator the school may provide partial or full remission of charges.

Music

If learners make use of an instrument provided by the school or the Local Authority, a charge may be made in respect of the maintenance of the instrument in accordance with the published scale of charges. A charge may also be made in respect of tuition even if such tuition takes place in school hours. Parental agreement and a signed contract will be obtained before tuition takes place.

Materials for practical lessons

Voluntary contributions or provision of goods in kind may be requested from parents for materials for practical lessons (Design Technology, Cookery or other subject areas as the Academy Committee may from time to time determine), if parents indicate in advance a wish to own the finished product.

Visits in support of the curriculum which are desirable but not essential

The Academy Committee recognises that the school may wish to offer opportunities for learners to broaden the range of experiences in connection with certain curriculum areas during school hours. Such opportunities might comprise an educational visit to a historic site, work in an art gallery, or use of a swimming pool. The Academy Committee's policy is to encourage the school to work jointly with parents in this respect, and invite voluntary contributions from parents either generally to school funds or specifically for certain activities, in accordance with section 460 of the 1996 Education Act. In encouraging such co-operation the Academy Committee is keen to ensure that parents are made aware that such contributions are voluntary and learners will not be treated differently or discriminated against according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution. No learner would be prevented from attending such a visit if no contribution had been made.

If sufficient contributions are not received the activity may be cancelled.

The Academy Committee recognises that the viability of visits in support of the curriculum which are desirable but not essential, depends upon the level of voluntary financial support received from parents and delegate to the Headteacher responsibility for decisions in relation to the viability of such visits. The Academy Committee reserves the right to make a charge for visits to school by professionals such as authors, storytellers, musicians, dancers, artists etc.

Lost School Equipment, Books etc

Parents will be expected to replace or pay for the cost of lost items of school property.

Breakages and Damage to School Buildings, Furniture or Property

Parents will be charged for damage caused as a result of a learner's behaviour.

Data Protection of Learners and Families

Staff will ensure that learners are not publicly identified and stigmatised. This is particularly important as the fear of stigmatisation is often a key element in the non-take up of Free School Meals. This will be accomplished by developing methods of collecting voluntary charges or dinner money which do not identify learners who do not contribute. The Academy Committee may, from time to time, review and amend the categories of activities for which charges can be made.

Children supported through the Pupil Premium

In line with their policy on Pupil Premium, the Academy Committee may use such funds to subsidise or pay for activities which will enrich and extend the opportunities of those children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

Electronic Financial transactions

Parents and the school increasingly benefit from electronic payments for a range of services and facilities provided at school. In agreeing to these electronic transactions, the school will include in such transfers any administration charge made to the school. The Academy Committee may, from time to time, review and amend the categories of activity for which charges can be made.

Our Schools

Belsay Primary School

Darras Hall Primary School

Heddon St. Andrew's CE Primary School

Ponteland High School

Ponteland Primary School

Richard Coates CE Primary School

