



School Charging & Remissions Policy

Coombe Secondary Schools Academy Trust

Incorporating
Coombe Girls' School
Coombe Boys' School
Knollmead Primary School

Equality Analysis Impact

Title of Policy: **School Charging and Remissions Policy**

Considered at Governors' Committee meeting: **Finance and Resources**

Date: **Approved: 17th March 2015**
Reviewed 23rd March 2017

Type:

Originator:

Is there relevance to equality?

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Does the policy have an adverse effect on employees, pupils or the wider community and therefore have a significant effect in terms of equality? If yes please answer questions 2 and 3. | No |
| 2 Does the policy have an adverse effect upon a group with protected characteristics? (Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Marriage/Civil partnership, Pregnancy/ Maternity, Race, Religion or belief, Sex, Sexual orientation) | No |
| 3 Does the policy affect one or more of the equality objectives set by the school? (Please refer to the Equality Policy) | No |

If the answer to question 2 or 3 is yes, a full equality analysis will need to be completed by the SLT Lead before the next committee meeting.

Please detail the objective and explain the relevance of the policy to the objective and protected characteristics below.

The CSSAT School Charging & Remissions Policy

(as required by the Education Act 1996, sections 449-462)

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that there is clarity over those items which the school will provide free of charge and those items where there may be a charge. The policy has been informed by government guidelines.

Policy statement

The academies in the Coombe Secondary Schools Academy Trust (CSSAT) do not charge for:

- education provided during school hours, including the supply of any materials, books, instrument or other equipment; education provided 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;
- instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent;
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school; and examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school.

The CSSAT Academies may charge for:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them;
- optional extras;
- music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances;
- certain early years provision;
- community facilities.

Voluntary contributions

The Coombe Secondary Schools Academy Trust may ask parents for voluntary contributions for non-chargeable activities, and this will be made clear to parents at the outset. It will also be made clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution. No pupil will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it will be cancelled. It will be made clear to parents that if they are unwilling or unable to pay, their child will still be given an equal chance to go on the visit and at the outset the policy for allocating places on school visits will be established and communicated clearly.

Music Tuition

Although the law states that, in general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to that rule.

The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 set out the circumstances in which charges can be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, including vocal tuition. They allow charging for tuition in larger groups than was previously the case.

Charges may now be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or to groups of any size, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent. Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff who provide the tuition.

The regulations make clear that charging may not be made if the teaching is either an essential part of the national curriculum, or is provided under the first access to the key stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme. They also make clear that no charge may be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Transport

The CSSAT Academies will not charge for:

- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when s/he has been prepared for that examination at the school; and
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

Residential visits

The CSSAT Academies 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, 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.

The CSSAT Academies may charge for board and lodging and the charge will not exceed the actual cost. However, parents who can prove that they are in receipt of the benefits listed in Appendix A will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging.

Education partly during school hours

Where an activity takes place partly during and partly outside school hours, there is a basis for determining whether it is deemed to take place either inside or outside school hours. However, a charge will only be made for the activity outside school hours if it is not part of the national curriculum, not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school and not part of religious education.

If 50% or more of the time spent on the activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to take place during school hours. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day.

Where less than 50% of the time spent on an activity falls during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours. For example, an excursion might require pupils to leave school an hour before the school day ends, but the activity does not end until late in the evening.

Non-residential activities

If 50% or more of the time spent on the activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to take place during school hours. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day.

Where less than 50% of the time spent on an activity falls during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours. For example, an excursion might require pupils to leave school an hour before the school day ends, but the activity does not end until late in the evening.

Residential visits

If the number of school sessions taken up by the visit is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half days spent on the visit, it is deemed to have taken place during school hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening). Whatever the starting and finishing times of the school day, regulations require that the school day is divided into 2 sessions. A 'half day' means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day.

Example 1

Pupils are away from noon on Wednesday to 9pm on Sunday. This counts as 9 half days including 5 school sessions, so the visit is deemed to have taken place during school hours.

Example 2

Pupils are away from school from noon on Thursday until 9pm on Sunday. This counts as 7 half days including 3 school sessions, so the visit is deemed to have taken place outside school hours.

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 educational, social or recreational visits/trips 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; or
- part of religious education.
- examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;
- transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority/governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education);
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit;
- extended day services offered to pupils (for example breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

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;
- the cost of buildings and accommodation;
- 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 this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and
- the cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra.

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

Furthermore in cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate. Therefore no charge can be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils 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.

Remissions

There may be exceptional circumstances in which a CSSAT Academy proposes to remit any charge which would otherwise be payable in accordance with the Trust's charging policy. In these circumstances, the cost for those children whose parents are in receipt of the benefits listed below may be reduced.

Universal Credit in circumstances prescribed by the government prevailing at the current time

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 limit set by the government for each tax year.

The guarantee element of State Pension Credit

An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008