

Charges and Remissions Policy	
Policy Ref:	Gen017
Status	
Purpose	To ensure that parents are clear about the academies approach to charging for activities linked to the delivery of the curriculum at the academy.
Committees	LGB and Staff and Pupil Wellbeing
Other linked policies	
Issue date	April 2024
Review Date	October 2026

Introduction

1. The local governing board of Inspire Academy recognises the valuable contribution that the provision of a wide range of enrichment and extension activities can have in providing a broad, balanced and fulfilling educational experience for our pupils. To achieve this, our curriculum offer is vibrant and innovative with enrichment and extension activities that are carefully planned to enhance pupils' learning. Activities may include clubs, out of school trips, residential visits, placements and experiences in environments that are outside of our pupils' everyday experience.
2. (Throughout this policy, the term "parents" means all those having parental responsibility for a child).

Charging

3. The local governing board reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances for enrichment activities organised by Inspire Academy.
 - School trips and residential visits in school time: the board and lodging element of the residential experience and any charges for outdoor pursuit courses.
 - Activities outside school hours: the full cost for each pupil of journeys, trips and overnight stays in the United Kingdom and abroad which take place at weekends and during holidays, which are deemed to be optional extras.
 - Additional visitors and experiences that incur a cost to the school
4. The local governing board also reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances:
 - Acts of vandalism and negligence: to recover part, or the whole cost, of damage to buildings or equipment which is the result of vandalism or negligence by a pupil or pupils.

Remissions

5. The local governing board may remit charges in full or in part for parents after considering specific circumstances and hardship cases. The local governing board invites parents to apply, in the strictest confidence, for the remission of charges in part or in full. Following consideration, the Principal may authorise remission and inform the Chair of the local governing board.

Insurance

6. Any insurance costs will be included in charges made for trips or activities.

Parent contributions

7. Voluntary contributions help to cover the cost of transport by coach, train or tram and any entrance costs incurred by the academy.
8. Voluntary contributions towards an on-site visit by external providers help to cover the cost of their transport to the academy and daily rate for the services provided.
9. If sufficient contributions are not made, the trip, experience or visitor may be cancelled.
10. Efforts will always be made to recoup enough contributions to ensure that the trip/ experience can go ahead without excluding any pupils. However, this must not incur significant loss to the school.
11. Nothing in this policy statement precludes the local governing board from inviting parents to make voluntary contributions. In such circumstances the local governing board will make clear that such contributions are:
 - voluntary;
 - that children of parents who do not contribute will not be discriminated against; and
 - that if insufficient contributions are received the trip may be cancelled.

Appendix A

Charging and Remissions Statement

The local governing board of Inspire Academy have agreed that the following will apply for charging for school activities:

Musical Instrument Tuition

Each year Inspire Academy will offer tuition from the Tameside Music Service. The tuition is offered in Year 4 as part of the wider opportunities programme that allows all children a taster of music provision. This provision is funded by the school through Pupil Premium.

The academy also offers tuition 1:1 via Front Row Music. This is funded solely by parents. The academy allocates this tuition based on applications from pupils. Invoices are issued termly, in advance, to the families of participating pupils.

Voluntary Contributions

It is sometimes essential for a year group or class, as part of their academy curriculum, to visit an establishment or site during the academy day. All pupils in the year group or class would be invited to and entitled to go on the trip.

The academy will, request a voluntary contribution from families to cover these costs. It should be understood, that if insufficient voluntary contributions are received, the trip may have to be cancelled.

Residential Visits or Trips not Part of the Academy Curriculum

Other visits or trips may take place where pupils are able to go on a voluntary basis as the activity happens mainly or wholly outside of a normal academy day. These visits or trips must be funded by families to cover all costs involved. Failure to do so, will mean the student will not be able to participate, and it is possible that deposits would not be able to be refunded. It may be that pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits are entitled to the remission of charges for board and lodging costs during a residential trip. The trip organiser or the Educational Visits Co-ordinator would be able to provide families with more detailed information. Staff will work with the Trust to achieve financial support, where possible.