

Charging and Remissions Policy

December 2020

CHESTERTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Charging and Remissions Policy

Introduction

This document sets out school charging and remission policy for school activities and school visits. This is based on latest legislation (Education Act 1996) and guidance from the Department for Education (DFE). Whilst there are many things that schools can and cannot charge for in law, we do occasionally request voluntary contributions to help sustain valuable learning experiences for our students.

Voluntary Contributions

Nothing in legislation prevents our Trustees requesting voluntary contributions from parents/carers for the benefit of the school or any school activities. At Chesterton we believe that optional school activities provide invaluable learning experiences for students. Whilst there is clear guidance and legislation regarding the costs we can and cannot pass onto parents/carers, we aim to be completely transparent in our activity costings.

In order to calculate the voluntary contributions required for our optional activities, our costings will be based on actual costs that will be incurred and these may include some or all of the following:

- transport;
- board and lodgings;
- activity costs;
- insurance;
- passport costs;
- first aid/health and safety costs;
- refreshments;
- clothing/equipment;
- entrance fees;
- supply teacher costs, but only where the school has incurred supply costs as a result of the activity;

Every effort is made to accurately cost trips and activities.

The school has a small hardship fund for those parents/carers who are unable to financially contribute at all. This fund enables us to offer financial support for students to participate in trips and activities which otherwise they may not be able to access. The school will consider each request for financial support individually.

Our goal is that no student should be prevented from participating in educational activities, including trips, because they cannot afford it. However, the school cannot afford to heavily subsidise trips. When making requests for voluntary contributions, we do not wish for parents/carers to feel pressurised into paying as we stress that contributions are voluntary and not compulsory.

Where insufficient voluntary contributions are made by parents/carers to cover the cost of a chargeable activity, the activity is likely to be cancelled without their support.

When we inform parents/carers about a forthcoming educational activity for which we will charge and seek voluntary contributions, we make it clear what discounts are available for students who are eligible for free school meals.