



Tall Oaks Academy Trust

POLICY

Charging and Remissions

September 2021

Review Date: July 2022

Charging and Remission Policy

Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the Trust invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary, however if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may have to cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The Trust provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums and venues of interest to support the curriculum
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the cinema, theatre or other performing arts venues

Residential visits

If the Trust organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the curriculum, we will ask for voluntary contributions towards the cost of such activities but will charge for the costs of board and lodging.

Where such visits take place at weekends or during school holidays, these will be regarded as 'optional extras' and parents will be asked to meet all of the costs.

Swimming

The Trust organises swimming lessons for certain year groups in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the curriculum. We request voluntary contributions of £2.00 per child per week for White's Wood and Mercer's Wood to cover the cost of the transport to and from the Leisure Centre. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place at the beginning of each term.

The Leisure Centre requires all children to wear swimming hats. The Trust provides parents with the opportunity to purchase these from either school site at a cost of £1.00 per hat.

School Meals

The option to purchase schools meals from the Trust's School Meals provider is available to children at the cost per meal as below:

Child's meal: £2.30

Staff meals may also be purchased.

Payment for meals are paid directly to the meals provider, Ideal School Meals Ltd through their online payment facility. No payments are made directly to the school.

Out of School Clubs

A Breakfast Club is run by the Trust at all sites. There is a charge for children to attend the breakfast club, which currently operates from 7.30am as set out below:

White's Wood Academy: £3.00

Mercer's Wood Academy: £3.00

Castle Wood Academy: £3.00

These contributions are towards the cost of consumables and staffing.

An after-school activity club, Acorns Club is run by the Trust at all sites. The Club currently operates between 3 pm and 6.00pm, during term time only. The Club does not require Ofsted registration as at least one child from the school attends. There is a charge for children to attend Acorns Club as set out below:

£7.00 per child per session.

These contributions are towards the cost of refreshments, staffing and activity materials.

Where the Trust deems it appropriate, pupil premium funding may be used to support the cost of children attending.

The Trust also operates a Holiday Club during certain school holidays where the number of bookings received makes it viable to do so. The Holiday Club runs from 8.30am – 5.30pm. There is a charge for children to attend as set out below:

£20.00 per child per session

£15.00 per sibling per session

These contributions are towards the cost of refreshments, staffing and activity materials.

Tuck Shop

The Trust offers a Tuck Shop at Mercer's Wood Academy and White's Wood Academy. Refreshments are served at morning break at individual costs as set out by the Trust at any point in time. Children pay for refreshments at the Tuck Shop.

Damage and Breakages

Where it is clearly proven that a pupil is responsible for damage, breakage or loss of school property, parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution for repair or replacement.

It is hoped that all parents will appreciate that the Trust can ill afford such loss or damage which inevitably impairs the education of all pupils.

Requests to validate legal documentation

There may be occasions when the Trust agrees to complete legal documentation at the request of parents and legal guardians, for example passports. The Trust will request a payment of £5.00 per application completed which will be paid to school.

The Board of Trustees has drawn up this policy to meet the very complex legal demands of the Government's Education Reform Act, bearing in mind that MOST educational activities will continue to be offered free of charge to all pupils. It is the Board of Trustees' intention to review the policy annually. Particular queries should be addressed to the Executive Headteacher.