

CAMS HILL SCHOOL

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY



Statutory

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The Governing Body recognises that as a result of the 1996 Education Act there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity and that charging is prohibited except in certain circumstances at the discretion of the Local Authority or Governing Body.

The Governing Body also recognises that the curriculum, as it exists at present, cannot continue without asking for voluntary contributions from parents/carers in certain circumstances.

1. Educational Activities Taking Place During School Hours

- 1.1 School hours are defined as being those hours during which the school is in session, but excluding the mid-day break.
- 1.2 No charges will be made for any activity or materials, books, instruments or other equipment which are essential to fulfil the basic statutory curriculum.
- 1.3 Voluntary contributions may be asked for to enable enhanced activities which are deemed educationally desirable to take place. It may also be stated that such an activity will not be able to take place unless enough contributions are received to finance that activity. The contributions requested will reflect the cost of that activity, including any consequential costs such as entrance fees and transport.
- 1.4 In Design and Technology and in Art, materials are required to make a product. Parents/carers wishing to keep this product may be asked to make a payment towards the cost of the materials used. Parents/carers will be notified and given this option in a letter sent home.
- 1.5 Parents/carers will be expected to provide items of clothing such as aprons and football boots. The school will continue to provide essential protective equipment such as safety goggles.

2. Educational Activities Taking Place Outside School Hours

- 2.1 Charges for activities may be made except where the activities are required either:
 - (a) as part of the syllabus of a prescribed public examination; or
 - (b) to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or Religious Studies.
- 2.2 Where charges are made the cost may not exceed the actual cost to the pupil and cannot subsidise any other pupils participating.
- 2.3 The costs incurred by teachers providing the activity may be included in the costs to pupils.
- 2.4 A pupil's participation in such an activity will be a matter for parental choice and on the basis of a willingness to meet any charges applicable. Thus such an agreement is a pre-requisite to a pupil's inclusion.
- 2.5 It will not be possible to ask parents/carers of participating pupils to subsidise other pupils taking part in the visit.

3. Definitions by the Act

- 3.1 Day visits and non-residential activities are deemed to take place during school hours if 50% or more of the time spent on the activity, including any connected travel, occurs during school hours (see Section 1.1). The Charging Policy for such an activity will, therefore, follow 1.1 – 1.5.
- 3.2 Residential activity is defined as being one which involves pupils spending one or more nights away from home. Such an activity is deemed to take place during school hours if the number of school sessions taken up by the activity is 50% or more of the number of half days (12 hours) involved (in this connection a 'half day' is defined as any period of 12 hours ending at noon or midnight of any day). The charging policy for such an activity will therefore follow 1.1 – 1.5 except that:
- (a) the full actual costs per pupil for board and lodging may be charged to the parent/carer.
- 3.3 A residential activity is deemed to take place outside of school hours if the number of school sessions taken up by the activity is less than 50% of the number of half days (12 hours) involved. An appropriate charge may be made to parents/carers unless the activity is required either:
- (a) as part of the syllabus of a prescribed public examination; or
 - (b) to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or Religious Education.

4. Activities Arranged by a Third Party

- 4.1 It would not be appropriate in any way to arrange or help to arrange an activity for which Cams Hill School has no legal liability. Nor is it anticipated that teachers would be granted leave of absence to participate in such an activity.

5. Entry for Public Examinations

- 5.1 No charge will be made for a pupil's first entry to any prescribed public examination for which the pupil has been prepared at the school, whether during or outside school hours. Re-sit examinations will be charged unless the pupil is in receipt of Free School Meals or has suffered illness or a 'life event' that caused the pupil to perform worse in the examination than would normally have been expected.
- 5.2 No charge will be made for transport provided to enable a pupil to take such an examination.
- (a) in the opinion of the Headteacher, there are educational reasons for not doing so; or
 - (b) where the pupil's parents/carers request in writing that the pupil should not be entered.
- 5.3 Parents/carers will be informed in writing as soon as it has been decided for which examinations pupils should be entered.
- 5.4 Where the preparation provided by the school would enable a pupil to take two or more prescribed public examinations in the same syllabus, the requirement to enter a pupil applies to a single examination entry only. However, no charge will be made to the parents/carers for a 'double' entry of a pupil if the school has prepared the pupil for the examination.

- 5.5 Where it is agreed to enter a pupil for a prescribed examination for which the pupil has not been prepared by the school, the full cost of the entry may be charged to the pupil or parents/carers.
- 5.6 Where a pupil has, with parental agreement, been entered for a non-prescribed public examination a charge may be made for:
- (a) entry fee;
 - (b) actual cost of any preparation provided by the school outside school hours;
 - (c) costs relating to the school's teaching staff if the staff have been specifically engaged under a contract for services for the purpose of providing the optional extra.
- 5.7 Examination entry fees may be recovered from parents/carers if a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements for any public examination for which fees have been paid by the school. Requirements may include coursework or the sitting of final examinations.

6. Music Provision

- 6.1 Charges will not be made for class music tuition during school hours.
- 6.2 Instrumental tuition, whether group or individual, will also be free, whether it is provided during or outside school hours, if it forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination or required by the National Curriculum.
- 6.3 No charge will be made for group activities, eg school orchestras, which take place during school hours.
- 6.4 A charge will be made for individual and small group peripatetic instrumental tuition not forming part of the syllabus of a prescribed public examination or required by the National Curriculum, provided parental agreement is obtained before a pupil is given the tuition. The charge can include:
- (a) the cost of the teacher;
 - (b) the cost of sheet music; and
 - (c) the hire and insurance of a musical instrument provided.
- 6.5 Serious consideration will be given to requests for peripatetic music tuition from parents/carers suffering financial hardship or whose child is in receipt of Free School Meals, with each case being judged independently upon application to the Headteacher.
- 6.6 Parents/carers are asked to make a term's commitment in advance towards instrumental tuition. Parents/carers will be invoiced termly.
- 6.7 Parents/carers will be required to terminate instrumental tuition at least one term in advance and in writing to the Head of Music. Should a pupil decide not to attend tuition at any time during a term period, no reimbursement of fees will be given.
- 6.8 Tuition will be cancelled if payment is not received in advance. However, parents/carers will still be liable for settling any outstanding amounts.

- 6.9 The school reserves the right to terminate tuition if it does not consider groups to be viable, or if progress/commitment is unsatisfactory. This will always be done after consultation with the instrumental teachers and parents/carers.
- 6.10 School insurance will cover loaned instruments in school and on the journey to and from school. Parents'/Carers' own insurance must cover the cost of replace/repair, should damage occur outside these times. Advice will be given by the instrumental and music teacher. Insurance should be taken out for pupils' own instruments.

7. Voluntary Contributions

- 7.1 With the school's allocated funding from central government, we ensure that all subject areas are able to resource their departments to enable pupils to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum and to fulfil their potential. At Cams Hill School this enables our pupils to make excellent progress and enjoy their learning experience with us. Departments will also seek to further enhance the curriculum wherever possible to provide high quality enrichment activities that extend pupils' learning experience, develop creativity and build significant learning power. Consequently, during the academic year, departments may seek voluntary contributions from parents/carers to enable the purchase of additional resources for use by pupils in the classroom and at home around these enrichment and extension activities.

We do not wish any pupil to be disadvantaged. The school will provide financial support for low income families where a child is in receipt of Free School Meals. They will be treated the same as pupils of parents/carers who have made voluntary contributions. In such cases, for the families living within the borough of Fareham, the school will apply for assistance from The William Price Charitable Trust.

- 7.2 If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, this will be made clear to parents/carers in an initial letter indicating:
- (a) the nature of the proposed activity and its education value;
 - (b) the contribution per pupil which would be required if the activity were to take place; and
 - (c) the activity would not take place if insufficient contributions were forthcoming.
- 7.3 The schools' Financial Support Fund is used to support families experiencing financial hardship. (See Appendix 1)

8. Breakages

- 8.1 Parents/carers may be asked to pay for the cost of any damage resulting from a pupil's misbehaviour.
- 8.2 Parents/carers may be asked to pay for the replacement of any lost or damaged material in the care of the pupil.

Appendix 1 - Financial Support Fund

With the school's allocated funding from central government, we ensure that all subject areas are able to resource their departments to enable pupils to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum and to fulfil their potential. At Cams Hill School this enables our pupils to make excellent progress and enjoy their learning experience with us. Departments will also seek to enhance the curriculum wherever possible to provide high quality enrichment activities that extend pupils' learning experience, develop creativity and build significant learning power. Consequently, during the academic year, departments may seek voluntary contributions from parents/carers to enable off site activities (trips) to take place and for the purchase of additional resources for use by pupils in the classroom/at home around these enrichment and extension activities.

We do not wish any pupil to be disadvantaged. The school will provide financial support for low income families where a child is in receipt of Free School Meals. They will be treated the same as pupils of parents/carers who have made voluntary contributions. In such cases, for the families living within the borough of Fareham, the school will apply for assistance from The William Price Charitable Trust.