

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust

Charging & Remissions Policy

Type: Statutory
Level: 2
Date Adopted: 2nd July 2015

1) Introduction

- a) The position of the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust is clear: no child's education should be in anyway compromised by the ability of their parents or carers to pay.
- b) In some cases Pupil Premium may be used to support those pupils who might be disadvantaged due their financial circumstance.

2) Compliance

- a) DBAT (the Academies Trust) is required by law to publish a policy on charging for academy activities. The Education Act 1996 establishes the basic principle that education provided by any maintained school/academy for its registered pupils should be free of charge. This basic underlying principle requires that there should be no school/academy admission charge and no charge for any related activity which takes place during school/academy time. Exceptions to this general statement are as follows:
 - b) Individual tuition in playing a musical instrument may be charged for provided that it is not part of the National Curriculum or part of the syllabus for a prescribed Public Examination.
 - c) Where parents have indicated that they wish to own the finished product from a particular lesson e.g. individual craft items, pottery, needlework, cookery, a charge may be made to cover materials.
 - d) For all residential visits deemed to be within academy hours, or part of the National Curriculum or part of the Syllabus for the prescribed Public Examination, a charge for board and lodging will be made, except for families in receipt of relevant welfare benefits.
 - e) Optional visits or activities occurring outside of academy hours may be charged for in full.

3) Policy

- a) Within the Education Act it is possible for schools/academies to ask for voluntary contributions from parents. The Board of Directors of the Trust has therefore approved the following:
 - Voluntary contributions can be invited from parents towards the cost of the academy activities which are related to the life and work of the academy. Such contributions will be genuinely voluntary and no child whose parents feel unable to contribute will be treated differently from the rest.
 - Parents not wishing to make a voluntary contribution in whole or part,

but wishing their child to be included, must make the fact known directly to the Headteacher or Principal who will treat any such approach in strictest confidence.

- Academy visits and activities will be planned in advance and, if sought, voluntary contributions will usually be invited through individual letters to parents. The letter, asking for support, will outline the proposed visit, cost, educational value and its relationship to the academy curriculum.
 - If insufficient voluntary contributions are received and the trip is considered by the Headteacher or Principal not to be financially viable, then it will be cancelled and any monies received will be refunded.
- b) Within the academy's home-school agreement compulsory charges may be made by the academy for:
- Replacement of broken windows or fittings, defaced or damaged text books or any other damage or loss occurring as a result of pupils' bad behaviour. The academy is empowered to recover this loss and resultant costs as a civil debt.
 - Unpaid charges legally recoverable will also be recouped, together with resultant costs, as a civil debt.
- c) Any amendments to this policy will be made if and when necessary.
- d) Children whose parents are in receipt of certain 'support' payment may be eligible for further remissions.
- e) Academies should develop their own policy and procedures on how the elements of this DBAT Policy are implemented.