



Charging and Remission Policy

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Date policy began	September 2014	Review Period	2 years
Date of last review	October 2024	Review Period	2 years
Date of next review	October 2026	Owner	Business Manager
Type of Policy	Statutory	Approval	LGB

Introduction

- 1.1 Goresbrook School provides a free education for all our students.
- 1.2 We do not permit charges for admissions, education provided during school hours, or outside school hours but constituting part of the syllabus. Nor do we charge for music tuition provided in the course of the curriculum that has not been voluntarily chosen by parents, or the entry of exams in normal circumstances.
- 1.3 There are occasions in which Goresbrook School does charge for certain activities (not contained within 1.2) which contribute to the broad and balanced curriculum on offer. These are called 'optional extras'. The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for activities, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents.
- 1.4 Goresbrook School is permitted to ask parents for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, which there is no obligation for a parent/carer to make.

Statutory framework and other guidance

- 2.1 This policy adheres to all guidance contained within:
 - DfE Guidance 'Charging for School Activities' 2018
 - Education Act 1996 (Sections 449-462) sets out the law on charging for school activities in schools in England.
 - Paragraph 1.82 in the School Admissions Code 2012, and in para 1.97 in the revised School Admissions Code (in force from 10/2/09).

Links to other policies and practice

- 3.1 The Charging and Remission Policy should be read in conjunction with the following areas of School policy:
 - Equality Policy
 - Educational Trips and Visits Policy
 - Curriculum documentation

Key Principles

- 4.1 The following framework underpins the approach to Charging and Remissions:



- Open, transparent and fair
- Puts students learning at the centre of every decision
- Does everything possible to remove barriers to learning related to parental circumstances

Roles and responsibilities for Charging and Remissions Policy

All staff	Ensure this policy and practice is adhered to at all times.
Administrators	Manage day-to-day of ParentPay system
Local Governing Body	Considers all applications for remissions of charges through 'Supporting Achievement Fund'

Implementation Optional Extras

6.1 Goresbrook School may make a charge for the 'optional extras' listed in 6.2. In every case, the charge will cover the cost of the materials or service ONLY and will never include cover costs for staff involved in the delivery of the activities. In the case of trips and activities, the charge per pupil will always be calculated by dividing the total cost by the number of pupils participating (irrespective of whether certain pupils are unwilling or unable to pay).

6.2 Optional extras may include:

- Materials, books or equipment that the student will own (e.g. calculators, uniform, revision guides)
- Board and lodging on residential trips
- Education outside school that is not part of a syllabus or for a prescribed public examination at school
- Individual or small group instrumental and vocal tuition, beyond what is normally offered as part of the curriculum
- In practical subjects' parents may be asked for the full or partial cost of materials or ingredients if they have indicated in advance that they wish to own the final product
- After-school clubs and activities run by external providers

6.3 Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary prerequisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

Voluntary Contributions



6.4 Goresbrook School is permitted to ask parents for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school. On these occasions, it is made explicit that the contributions are entirely voluntary and if insufficient funds are raised the activity will be cancelled and all monies returned. All students are treated equally in this regard, irrespective of whether their parent/carer has made a voluntary contribution or otherwise. Parents are under no obligation to make a voluntary contribution, and if a parent is unable or unwilling to pay, their child is still given an equal opportunity to participate.

6.5 Activities which take place mainly during the school day and which involve a cost (e.g. a theatre visit to the school or a day visit to a museum) will only take place if voluntary contributions from parents/carers are sufficient to cover the cost.

Other Charges

6.6 Goresbrook School reserves the right to recover part, or the whole cost, of damage to buildings or equipment which is the result of vandalism or negligence by a pupil.

6.7 Goresbrook School reserves the right to recover part, or the whole cost, of lost or damaged items that are the property of the school e.g. library books.

6.8 In the case of 6.6 and 6.7 a letter will be issued by the finance department outlining the payments required.

6.9 The cost of examination entries for subjects taught within the school will normally be met by the School. The School reserves the right to recover the fee:

- In cases where candidates have failed to meet the School's entry criteria but still wish to be entered;
- If, without a medical certificate explaining the reason, a pupil fails to complete examination requirements for any public examination for which the School has paid an entry fee;
- Where there is a request from the parent for additional subject entries to be made which are not supported by the School.

6.10 In cases where charges are to be levied parents will be advised in advance and monies collected prior to the activity.

Remissions

6.11 Requests for help from parents on income support or family credit will be considered and assistance provided within the limits of the school budget. The LGB invites parents to apply, in the strictest confidence, for the remission of charges in part or in full. The Principal will authorise remission in consultation with the Chair of LGB.



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6.12 The Local Governing Board may remit charges in full or in part to other parents after considering other specific hardship cases.

6.13 Applications for remissions outlined in 6.11 and 6.12 are to be made on a termly basis via the 'Supporting Achievement Fund' process.

Insurance

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

6.15 On enrolment at school every family is issued with a ParentPay account. All payments for activities within school are made through ParentPay (e.g. school uniform, voluntary school trips)