



# Mighty Oaks Academy Trust

## Charging and Remissions Policy

Review Date: February 2022



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## **Introduction**

Within Mighty Oaks Multi Academy Trust, all education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum. We aim to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that is enriched through a wide variety of additional experiences including visits and visitors. These take place both on and off the school site and are chosen to support the children's learning and the school's ethos.

The Education Act 1996 clarifies the activities for which charges can be made or voluntary contributions sought and gives schools the discretion to charge for optional activities, provided wholly or mainly out of school hours and the right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school whether during or after school hours. We aim to find a balance between maximising the number of these additional beneficial activities and minimising the financial burden on families.

Parents are encouraged to discuss with the Head of Schools, in complete confidence, any concerns they may have with charging arrangements.

## **Purpose**

In accordance with the Education Act 1996:

- To clarify the activities for which charges can be made or voluntary contributions sought.
- To ensure that activities offered in school time are available to all pupils regardless of their parents'/carers' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.

## **Voluntary contributions towards educational school visits**

When organising educational 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. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a visit. If a visit goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

The Trust will provide a breakdown of how trips and activities are funded should this be requested.

## **Residential visits**

As residential trips are predominately during out of school hours. As such, the full cost of board, lodgings, activity and transport will be charged.

Trust staff attending, do so on a voluntary basis and no charge is made to parents/carers for their services or for any residential costs incurred.

For families experiencing financial difficulties, the Trust will endeavour to seek support with the costs from charitable sources, however, this cannot be guaranteed. Parents who are experiencing financial difficulties are asked to speak/write in confidence to the Head of School.

### **Swimming**

The Trust organises swimming lessons for children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the P.E. curriculum. The Trust undertakes to cover the cost of the pool hire, coaching and transport costs and, as such, we do not make request for contributions for this activity.

### **Music tuition**

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. We may however ask parents to source or purchase through school, a musical instrument such as a recorder in Year 4.

There is a charge for individual or group music tuition provided by peripatetic teachers from Telford and Wrekin or Shropshire Music Service, if this is not part of the music curriculum and has been requested as an additional provision by parents. If parents/carers are experiencing financial difficulty, they are invited to speak/write in confidence to the Head of School. Parents are given information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

### **Optional extras**

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

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- workshops
- school trips;
- musical events.

The Trust may ask for contributions, in cash or in kind, to the costs of materials/ ingredients for subjects such as design or food technology.

### **Extra-curricular clubs**

Extra-curricular clubs are provided by staff employed within the Trust as well as by third

parties. Set charges are made for all clubs and payment goes towards the cost of salaries, hire of facilities, utilities, materials and equipment.

If parents/carers are experiencing financial difficulty, they are invited to speak/write in confidence to the Head of School.

Information about extra-curricular clubs is available at the start of each term.

### **Damage/loss to property**

In cases of wilful or malicious damage to the premises, furniture, equipment or materials, or loss of school books on loan to children, the Head of School, in consultation with the Executive Principal may decide it is right to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

A charge will be levied in respect of wilful, malicious damage, or loss of property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books and materials), belonging to a third party, where the cost has been charged to the Trust.

### **Academy lettings**

The Trust will make its facilities across sites available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges is determined annually by the Finance Committee and forms part of our separate Lettings Policy.

### **Income from sales**

Some goods are sold across the Trust with the intention of making a small profit which often takes the form of commission. Such goods include book fair sales and school photographs.

### **Income from donations**

Occasionally, the Trust will seek voluntary donations from events such as non-uniform days, sponsorship etc. The purpose for which the donation will be used is explained clearly to parents and carers through daily communication and the half termly newsletter.

### **Other charges**

The Head of School, Executive Principal, Finance Committee or Advisory Board may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services e.g. photocopying, private telephone calls etc. Information regarding any charges will be provided prior to the service being accessed.