



Charging and Remissions Policy

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1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. Definitions	2
4. Roles and responsibilities	2
4.1 The Local Governing Body	2
4.2 Staff	2
4.3 Parents	2
5. Where charges can be made	2
5.1 Education	2
5.2 Damage to School Property and Parental Liability	3
5.3 Optional Activities	3
5.4 Music tuition	4
5.5 Residential visits	4
5.6 Photocopying	4
5.7 Private Fees	5
6. Voluntary contributions	5
7. Where charges cannot be made	5
7.1 Education	5
7.2 Transport	5
7.3 Residential visits	6
8. Activities each school charges for	6
8.1 Refunds and Cancellations	6
9. Remissions	6
9.1 Remissions for Residential Visits	6
10. Monitoring arrangements	7
11. Appeals Process	7
12 Availability of the Policy	8
12.1 Notification of Charges	8



1. Aims

King's Academy Gomer aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on charging for school activities and the Education Act 1996, sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

- Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable
- The term 'parent(s)' means all those having parental responsibility for a child including carers

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Local Governing Body

The Local Governing Body has overall responsibility for approving the Charging and Remissions Policy and also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

4.2 Staff

Our staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the relevant senior school leader of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The senior leadership team will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.3 Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the specific school senior leader e.g. Executive Headteacher or Associate Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what each school can charge for.



5.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional activities (see below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Community facilities
- Examination resit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school **and** the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus

5.2 Damage to School Property and Parental Liability

If a pupil wilfully or negligently damages school property, the school reserves the right to charge the parent/carer for the cost of repair or replacement. This applies regardless of whether the child was in a heightened state, as the school has a duty to protect its resources for the benefit of all students.

Where a pupil's actions result in damage while they are in a heightened state due to additional needs, the school will assess each case individually. Consideration will be given to the child's circumstances and their level of responsibility. However, in cases where repeated incidents occur, or where reasonable preventative measures and support have been provided, the school retains the right to seek financial contributions from parents/carers.

The school will:

- Communicate with parents in writing regarding any charges and provide details of the damage.
- Offer a discussion with parents before finalising charges.
- Consider financial hardship and, where appropriate, arrange for payment plans to reduce financial strain.
- Ensure that decisions comply with the **Equality Act 2010** and SEND Code of Practice, taking reasonable adjustments into account.

5.3 Optional Activities

We are able to charge for optional activities. In these cases, the school can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional activities:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Where an activity or visit is not curriculum linked and less than 50% of it takes place in school time, it can be charged to parents in full
 - Activities outside school hours: the full cost for each pupil of journeys, trips and overnight stays in the United Kingdom and abroad which take place at weekends and during holidays, which are deemed to be optional extras.
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the school has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions). For individual terms and conditions, please refer to the relevant school office and website
- Materials: the cost of materials or ingredients for areas of the curriculum such as Design Technology, if parents have indicated in advance that they wish to own the final product e.g. food and lanterns.



- Provision of Education and use of Facilities: to those persons who are not registered pupils at the school.
- Miscellaneous charges: the school may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services e.g. for providing a copy of an OFSTED report.
- Acts of vandalism and negligence: the 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

When calculating the cost of optional activities, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional activity
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Insurance

Any insurance costs will be included in charges made for off-site visits or activities.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional activity which is to be charged for.

5.4 Music tuition

The school can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent. Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the curriculum
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

5.5 Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

5.6 Photocopying

Subject Access Requests

The Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR) grants the right of access to pupils and those with parental responsibility for a pupil to ask for copies of their personal information, verbally or in writing by submitting a subject access request (SAR). The organisation can charge a fee for the copies, however, the fee must not exceed the cost of supply. The cost depends on the number of pages provided. For example, 1 to 19 pages will cost £1.20; 20 pages will cost £2, and so on, up to a maximum of 500+ pages which will cost £50. If the request is for other information excluding the educational record then the maximum charge is £10.



If the education record is to be supplied as part of a right of access under data protection, the organisation can charge for information held in the education record but not for any other personal data held by the school-supplied in its response to a SAR.

Freedom of Information Requests

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) gives rights of public access to information held by public authorities. Regulation 6(3) states that this includes, but is not limited to, the costs of:

- Reproducing any document containing the information, eg printing or photocopying;
- Postage and other forms of transmitting the information; and
- Complying with section 11 of FOIA where the applicant has expressed a preference for the means of communication and where this is reasonably practicable.

5.7 Private Fees

Any report or data that is requested on a pupil for the purpose of a third-party private assessment requested by parents/carers (e.g. mid-year pupil progress report for solicitors, private psychologist reports or solicitor reports) will be charged at an agreed rate by the Finance Director of the Trust. This rate will include a cost for staff time to sort and collate the relevant information (not less than £10 per hour) as well as photocopying charges (not less than 10p per sheet) and postage.

6. Voluntary contributions

The school may ask for voluntary contributions towards activities, but no child will be excluded from an activity if their parent/carer chooses not to contribute.

Where voluntary contributions do not meet the cost of an activity, the school reserves the right to cancel the event. Parents will be informed in advance if an activity is at risk of cancellation due to insufficient contributions.

Any voluntary contribution request will:

- Clearly state that contributions are voluntary.
- Provide an estimated cost breakdown to ensure transparency.
- Outline whether the activity can proceed without full funding.

7. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what each school cannot charge for:

7.1 Education

- Admission applications
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) by the school but not at the parents request



7.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

7.3 Residential visits

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

8. Activities each school charges for

Where relevant each school will charge for the following activities:

- Breakfast and after school clubs where offered
- Sports clubs and events

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the relevant school leaders and reviewed each year.

8.1 Refunds and Cancellations

If a trip or activity is cancelled by the school, parents will receive a full refund of any payments made.

If a pupil is unable to attend a chargeable trip or activity due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, a refund may be given at the school's discretion, subject to the following:

- Whether costs incurred are refundable by the service provider.
- Whether the school has already paid non-refundable deposits on behalf of the pupil.
- Individual financial hardship considerations.

Refunds will be processed within 30 days of cancellation confirmation.

9. Remissions

The school is committed to ensuring that charges and remissions do not unfairly disadvantage pupils with SEND, those eligible for Pupil Premium, or those with financial hardship.

Where additional costs arise due to a child's specific needs (e.g., requiring additional support for a trip), the school will:

- Assess reasonable adjustments in line with the Equality Act 2010.
- Consider financial assistance through discretionary funding sources.
- Consult with parents to explore alternative support options.



9.1 Remissions for Residential Visits

In accordance with the Education Act 1996, our school is committed to ensuring that no child is excluded from educational opportunities or activities due to financial hardship. As part of our commitment to inclusivity and equality, we provide a system of remissions to support pupils from low-income families or those in receipt of specific financial benefits.

The school will offer remissions on board and lodging for residential trips if the activity is deemed to take place during school hours or is part of the national curriculum, and where the parent or carer of a pupil meets one of the following criteria:

- In receipt of Income Support
- In receipt of Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- In receipt of Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- In receipt of the Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- In receipt of Universal Credit, provided they meet the eligibility criteria set out by the government
- In receipt of support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of Child Tax Credit (provided the parent is not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and has an annual gross income that does not exceed the government threshold)

10. Monitoring arrangements

Any recurring charges are reviewed on an annual basis by the relevant school leadership and the Head of Finance and ensures these comply with this policy. The review process will look to see that charges are fair, take into account expenditure incurred by the King's Academy Gomer and offer value for money to the pupil and parent. Charges made for trips and for resources are also reviewed annually by the external auditors.

11. Appeals Process

To ensure transparency and fairness, appeals will be processed in the following timeframe:

- Informal discussions: A response will be given within 5 working days of the concern being raised.
- Formal written appeals: Parents will receive a written response from the Headteacher within 15 working days.

The school will make reasonable efforts to resolve disputes informally before requiring formal appeals.

11.1 Informal Appeal

Parents are encouraged to raise any concerns regarding charges or remissions informally in the first instance. This can be done by contacting the school office to discuss the issue with a member of the senior leadership team. The school will aim to resolve the concern quickly and amicably.

11.2 Formal Appeal

If the matter is not resolved informally, parents may submit a formal appeal in writing. The process is as follows:

- The appeal must be submitted to the Headteacher or relevant senior leader within 10 working days of receiving the decision or charge in question.



- The appeal should include the specific grounds for contesting the charge or remission decision, along with any supporting evidence (e.g., proof of financial hardship or eligibility for remission).
- The Headteacher will review the appeal, considering all relevant circumstances, and will respond in writing within 15 working days of receiving the appeal.

11.3 Escalation

If the parent or carer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the formal appeal, they may escalate the issue to the Local Governing Body (LGB). The steps for escalation are:

- The written appeal should be addressed to the Chair of the Local Governing Body via the school office.
- The Chair of the LGB, or a designated member of the LGB, will review the case and respond in writing within 20 working days of receiving the appeal.

The decision made by the Local Governing Body will be final.

11.4 Monitoring of Appeals

The school will maintain a record of all formal appeals and their outcomes to ensure consistency and transparency. Appeals will also be reviewed as part of the school's regular monitoring of charging and remissions practices to inform future policy reviews.

12 Availability of the Policy

This Charging and Remissions Policy is available to all parents, carers, and stakeholders. It can be accessed in the following ways:

- **Online:** A digital copy of the policy is available on the school's website under the "Policies" section.
- **Hard Copy:** A printed copy of the policy is available upon request from the school office.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to review the policy and reach out to the school with any questions or concerns.

12.1 Notification of Charges

Parents will be notified in writing about any charges related to school activities, property damage, or optional extras. The school will provide:

- A clear breakdown of costs.
- Payment deadlines.
- Information on remission options (where applicable).

Payment reminders will be sent via the school's usual communication methods (e.g., email, letters, or online payment systems).