

Scarborough Pupil Referral Service



Charging & Remissions Policy

Drafted by:	Ratified by Management Committee:	Amendments made:	Review Date:
NYCC	02/12/2019	Tailored to PRS Requirements by M Mortimer Lettings Policy removed from model policy as not applicable	November 2020
NYCC	20/01/2021	No changes Needed	January 2022
NYCC	16/02/2022	No Changes Needed	February 2023
NYC/DfE	05/07/2023	Added Optional Extras & Updated mean tested benefits	July 2024
NYC/DfE	03/07/2024	No Changes Needed	July 2025
NYC/DfE	04/12/2024	Amendments to Music Tuition as per model policy Sept 2024	November 25
NYC/DfE	03/12/2025	Means Tested Benefits wording changed	November 26
	Print Name	Signature	Date
Head Teacher:	J Fox	<i>J. Fox</i>	04.12.25
On behalf of Management Committee:	R Rayne	<i>Rosemary Rayne</i>	04.12.25

This policy takes guidance from the DfE Policy – ‘Charging for School Activities’ and Local Authority guidance on school lettings. Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England. This guidance complements the guidance laid out in section 6.7 of the Governance Handbook.

This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the School’s Finance Committee and will be adjusted in line with new Government or Local Authority recommendations. It sets out the School’s position on charges and remissions.

Voluntary Contributions and Responsibilities of Staff

Nothing in legislation prevents a Governing Body or Local Authority from asking for voluntary contributions that would benefit the School or any School activities and the School will invite parents and others from time to time to make voluntary contributions to enable the provision of activities and visits which may not otherwise be possible. If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, this will be made clear to parents at the outset. The Management Committee or Headteacher will make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution. No pupil will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. However, if insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, it may not go ahead. Staff organising visits should make this clear to parents. Staff organising a trip will make it clear to parents at the outset what their policy for allocating places on the visit will be.

Activities outside of normal lesson times and not within the National Curriculum (ranging from visits abroad to school matches) are classed as ‘optional extras’. Parents may be asked to meet the full cost of these activities. In the case of residential experiences, every effort will be made to offer value for money but the cost might be quite high. It is intended that School-based extra curricular activities should be free or very low cost. The School will do its best to offer assistance or remission of charges in any case where there is hardship.

For activities during normal School hours and/or within the National Curriculum, parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of the activity to enable it to go ahead. Each year, such visits may include visits to museums and galleries for Art, and theatre trips in English and Drama. The costs of visits will vary according to the pupil’s subject choices.

When making requests for voluntary contributions to School funds, parents will not be made to feel pressurised into paying as it is not compulsory. The School will ensure that direct debit or standing order mandates are not sent to parents when requesting for contributions (as opposed to a charge where this is allowed by law).

Charges and contributions should cover the anticipated costs. If contributions from an activity exceed the actual cost, the School will refund all surpluses.

Parents may be asked to meet the costs of private music tuition in full, where tuition is given either to an individual pupil or to pupils in small groups. General fundraising and sponsorship may be used to permit additional activities.

Charging Structure

For residential courses during the time of normal School hours, parents can be asked to meet the full cost of board and lodging, and to make a voluntary contribution towards any travel expenses. The School will meet the costs for pupils whose parents receive the income support benefits, where it is still possible for the visit to go ahead. The School will do its best to offer assistance and remissions in any case where there is hardship.

Parents may be charged for some or all of the cost of damage to School property where this has been intentional, for exam entries where a pupil has failed without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the Governing Body or LA originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee, according to the procedures given in the School’s Examinations Policy **Parents** will be expected to meet some or all of the cost for replacing lost or damaged books or equipment.

Activities and Visits

If the number of School sessions taken up by the visit is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half days spent on the visit, it is deemed to have taken place during normal School hours (even if some activities take place

late in the evening). Whatever the starting and finishing times of the day, regulations require that a school day be divided into two sessions: a 'half day' means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during School hours. Activities during normal School hours may only involve a request for a voluntary contribution; parents may be charged an amount to cover the costs incurred to the School for activities mainly taking place outside of School hours.

Parents should be informed of the decision to ask for contributions at the planning stage of activities. Planned activities may be cancelled if financial support is not forthcoming. Parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards activities taking place during School time, or towards activities which are a necessary part of the National Curriculum, or towards activities that form part of the School's basic curriculum for Religious Education. Parents will be asked to meet the full cost of optional extra activities that occur outside of normal School hours, where these activities are not a necessary part of the National Curriculum. Parents will be asked to meet the full cost of board and lodging, and to make a voluntary contribution towards travel expenses for residential visits which fall, in the main, during normal School sessions. Pupils whose parents are receiving the following benefits should not be prevented from taking part in any School activity or trip that is open to other pupils:

- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are also not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual household gross income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, may also be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. It will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge. In calculating the cost of optional extras an amount may be included in relation to:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra;
- non-teaching staff;
- teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and
- the cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during School hours, the charge will include the cost of alternative provision for those students who do not wish to participate. Therefore, no charge will be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from School accompanying pupils on a residential visit. 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 pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

When the School informs parents about a forthcoming visit, the member of staff leading the trip should make it clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of income support benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging. However, where voluntary contributions would not cover the cost of a visit, it would be likely that the visit would be cancelled where the trip was not an essential element of the curriculum.

Music Tuition

Although the law states that, in general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception.

The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 set out the circumstances in which charges can be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, including vocal tuition.

Charges may now be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size 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 that provides the tuition.

Charges may not be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22(I) of the Children Act 1989).

Optional Extras

Pupils may be offered to purchase Revision Books, all contribution requests to parents will be clear that the contributions are voluntary and that, if a parent cannot make or refuses to make a contribution, their child will not be treated any differently and will not be excluded from having the books, however if they wish to own them, payment will be required. School will only charge parents the same price that the school is charged by the supplier.

Exam Fees - On occasions previous year's pupil have asked if we could facilitate an exam entry and allow them to sit the exam. The exam fee charged by the exam board will be charged to the parent along with an admin fee and possibly a room hire or invigilation fee. All cost will be discussed with parents at the time of enquiry, if we are able to facilitate the request.

Damage of Property

The school may charge parents/carers for the cost of replacing items broken or damaged due to poor behaviours of pupils or parents/carers. Parents/carers will only be charged the replacement cost to purchase or repair the equivalent item.

Miscellaneous Charges (other than for Pupils)

Staff may use the school photocopier for private use with the prior permission of the Business Manager. Charges per sheet are as follows:

Copies	A4	A3
Black	1p	2p
Colour	2p	4p

Paper/Card	A4	A3
White Paper	1p	2p
Coloured Paper	2p	4p
Card	5p	10p
Laminating	25p	50p

Value Added Tax

The Governors are constrained by law to apply value added tax to all transactions where appropriate.