

Charging and Remissions Policy

Policy Code:	SW10
Policy Start Date:	September 2026
Policy Review Date:	September 2029

Please read this policy in conjunction with the policies listed below:

- SW11 Educational Visits Policy

1 Policy Statement

- 1.1 The Education Act 1996 establishes the basic principle that the education provided by any academy for its registered pupils should be free of charge. This basic underlying principle requires that there should be no academy admission charge and no charge for any related activity which takes place during academy time.
- 1.2 References to the Trust or Academy within this policy specifically include all nursery, primary, secondary and special academies within the Trust, as well as Priory Apprenticeships and Lincolnshire ITT.
- 1.3 This policy does not form part of any member of staff's contract of employment and it may be amended at any time.

2 Roles, Responsibilities and Implementation

- 2.1 The Education & Standards Committee has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory framework. This committee delegates day-to-day responsibility for operating the policy and ensuring its maintenance and review to the Chief Financial Officer.
- 2.2 This policy is approved by the Education & Standards Committee before being ratified at the next available Trust Board meeting. Approval and ratification is minuted, with records kept by the Clerk to Trustees.
- 2.3 Managers have a specific responsibility to ensure the fair application of this policy and all employees are responsible for supporting colleagues and ensuring its success.

3 Aims

- 3.1 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/carers.

4 Admissions

- 4.1 There is no charge for admissions.

5 Academy meals

- 5.1 Each academy receives government funding to support the provision of school meals for eligible children. Free meals will be provided in line with current government eligibility criteria and funding guidance. Pupils who are not entitled to free school meals will be charged.

6 Public examinations

- 6.1 There is no charge for examinations that are part of the curriculum and on the academies' set examinations list, where pupils have been prepared for the examinations by the academy. There is no charge for examinations that are not on the set list, but have been arranged by the academy. However, if the pupil fails without good reason to meet an examination requirement for any sitting, the academy may recover the fee incurred from that pupil's parents/carers.

7 Activities that take place during academy hours (this does not include the break in the middle of the academy day)

- 7.1 There is no charge for activities during academy hours with the exception of music tuition (Section 11).
- 7.2 There is no charge for transport during academy hours to academy-organised activities, but voluntary contributions may be requested.
- 7.3 We may charge for:
- books and materials that the parent/carer wishes the child to keep (the cost will be made clear to parents/carers before charge) instead of returning them to the academy (including design and technology materials and food ingredients);
 - optional extras (Section 8); and
 - music or vocal tuition (Section 11).

8 Activities that take place *partly* during academy hours, either on or off site

- 8.1 Where the majority of a non-residential activity takes place during school hours the charging of the activity will be the same as is outlined in Section 7.

9 Activities that take place outside of academy hours (non-residential, and including the break in the middle of the academy day)

- 9.1 There is no charge for activities that take place outside of academy hours when they are:
- part of the set curriculum, including the basic curriculum for religious education;
 - part of the syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the academy; and/or
 - sports matches against other schools.

Optional extras

9.2 The academy may charge for optional extras. Optional extras are:

- educational or other activities provided outside of academy time that is **not**:
 - a) part of the academy's curriculum, including religious education.
 - b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school;
- examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the academy;
- transport that is not taking the pupil to an academy or to other premises where the local authority or governing body has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education; and
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit.

The cost of optional extras

9.3 The decision about when a charge will be made for an optional activity will be made by the Headteacher.

9.4 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.

9.5 When 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, including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and/or
- 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.

9.6 Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to pay the charges.

10 Residential activities

10.1 An academy may charge for:

Board and lodging

When any visit has been organised by the academy where there may be a cost for board and lodging, parents/carers will be informed of this before the visit

takes place. We will charge anything up to the full cost of board and lodging on residential visits, whether it is classified as taking place during academy hours or not. The charge will not exceed the actual cost. Parents/Carers whose children are in receipt of certain benefits may be exempt from paying this cost (see Section 14 for guidance on remissions).

Travel

Travel charges may apply when the residential activity and extended day trips take place outside of academy hours. The amount charged will be calculated to cover the unit cost per pupil. These charges may not apply to those pupils entitled to remissions (see Section 14 for guidance on remissions), but no other pupils will be charged extra to cover those costs.

The cost of activities

The academies may charge for residential activities that fall outside of academy hours, subject to the remissions set out in Section 14.

11 Music tuition within academy hours

- 11.1 The Trust follows government legislation that states that all education provided during academy hours must be free; however, instrumental or voice music tuition is an exception to this rule.
- 11.2 Charges will be made if the teaching is not an essential part of either the academy's curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), or the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (Wider Opportunities).
- 11.3 The academy may charge for teaching requested by parents/carers and delivered by specialist tutors given to either an individual pupil or groups of any appropriate size (provided that the size of the group is based on sound pedagogical principles) to play a musical instrument or to sing. The cost of these lessons may depend on the size and duration of the class as well as the type of instrument.
- 11.4 The cost of and payment for tuition may vary depending on the individual tutor, for both the tuition and appropriate examinations/grading exams.

12 Extended services

- 12.1 The Trust is dedicated to providing a well-rounded and extensive education for our pupils which includes a wide range of extra-curricular activities (extended services). Extended services enable us to provide:

- high-quality learning opportunities that are in addition to normal academy provision;
- ways of intervening early when children are at risk of poor outcomes;
- ways of increasing pupil engagement; and/or
- ways of improving outcomes and narrowing gaps in outcomes between different groups of pupils.

12.2 The total charge will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent/carer will be asked to subsidise other pupils.

13 Damage to property and breakages

13.1 Where academy property has been wilfully damaged by a pupil, the academy may charge those responsible for some or all of the cost of repair or replacement.

13.2 Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged by a pupil, and the academy has been charged, the academy may charge some or all of the cost to those responsible.

13.3 Whether or not these charges will be made will be decided by the Headteacher, who will take account of the full circumstances of the loss or damage.

14 Remissions

14.1 The academies will give consideration to the remission of charges to parents/carers who receive the following support payments:

- Universal Credit;
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit;
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; or
- Families with no recourse to public funds who meet the relevant eligibility criteria.

14.2 Children of families who receive these payments are also entitled to free school meals. Parents/Carers who are eligible for the remission of charges will be dealt with confidentially. The Headteacher will authorise the remission of charges for such pupils. When a remission is made it may be for all or part of the charges, and this decision will be made by the Headteacher.

14.3 No charge will be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by the Local Authority.

15 Voluntary contributions

- 15.1 The academy may ask for voluntary contributions for general funds and/or to fund activities that will enrich pupils' education. Records will be kept of all voluntary contributions and who paid them.
- 15.2 If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.
- 15.3 There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unable to pay.

16 Policy change

- 16.1 This policy may only be amended or withdrawn by The Priory Federation of Academies Trust.