

## **DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY**

<b>Reviewed:</b>	October 2023
<b>Agreed:</b>	November 2023
<b>Next Review Due:</b>	November 2024
<b>Person Responsible:</b>	Business Manager

### **1. Admissions**

There is no charge for admissions.

### **2. School meals**

There is no charge for children who are entitled to free school meals. Students who are not entitled to free school meals will be charged the value of the meal option they select up to a maximum of £6 per day. Parents must ensure their ParentPay account has sufficient funds to cover any cost each day.

### **3. Public examinations**

There is no charge for examinations that are part of the curriculum and on the School's set examinations list, where children have been prepared for the examinations by the School. However, if a student fails without good reason to meet an examination requirement, the School may recover the fee incurred from that student's parents. These principles apply equally to re-sits.

There is no charge for examinations that are not on the set list but have been arranged by the School.

There **is a charge** of the examination entry fee(s) if the registered student has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the School (**see Optional extras under section 5**)

### **4. Activities that take place during school hours (this does not include the break in the middle of the school day)**

There is no charge for activities during school hours except for music tuition (**section 8**).

There is no charge for transport during school hours to school-organised activities.

#### **We may charge for:**

- materials, books, instruments or equipment that the parent wishes their child to keep or own (e.g. ingredients for food technology). The cost will be made clear to the parents before charge.
- optional extras (**section 5**)
- music or vocal tuition (**section 8**).

## 5. Activities that take place outside of school hours (non-residential)

There is no charge for activities that take place outside of school hours when they are:

- part of the National Curriculum
- part of the syllabus for a public examination that the student is being prepared for by the School
- part of the School's curriculum for religious education.

### Optional extras

The School will charge for optional extras. Optional extras are:

- education provided outside of school time that is **not**:
  - a) part of the National Curriculum or the School's chosen curriculum
  - b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the School
  - c) part of religious education
- examination entry fee(s) if the registered student has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the School
- transport that is not taking the student to school or to other premises where the Governing Body has arranged for the student to be provided with education.
- board and lodging for a student on a residential visit.
- extended day services offered to students (e.g. breakfast clubs, after school clubs etc)

### The cost of optional extras

The Head Teacher will decide when it is necessary to charge for optional activities, and the levels of charge will be set by the Head Teacher and agreed by the Governing Body.

Any charge made in respect of individual students will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, including any administration fees, divided equally by the number of students participating. In no circumstances will there be an element of subsidy required for any students wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge (**section 12**).

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
- 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.
- the costs of buildings and accommodation.

Participation in any optional extra activity will be based on parental choice and a willingness to pay the charges. The school will need to have the agreement of parents before organising the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

## 6. Activities that take place *partly* during school hours either on or off site

Where most of a non-residential activity takes place during school hours the charging of the activity will be the same as is outlined in **section 4**.

Travelling time is included in time spent on the activity if the travel itself occurs during school hours.

In cases where most of a non-residential activity takes place outside of school hours the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those students who do not wish to participate. So, no charge can be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying students on a visit.

In this case the charging of the activity will be the same as is outlined in **section 5**.

## 7. Residential activities

### We will not charge for:

- 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, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the School, or part of religious education
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying students on a residential visit
- travel costs where the residential activity is classed as being within school hours
- residential activities that take place during school hours.

### Our school will charge for:

#### Board and lodging

When any visit has been organised by the School where there may be a cost for board and lodging, parents 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 school hours or not. The charge will not exceed the actual cost. **Parents who can prove they are in receipt of certain benefits may be exempt from paying the full cost** (see **section 11** for more guidance on remissions).

#### Travel

Travel charges may apply when the residential activity takes place outside of school hours. The amount charged will be calculated to cover the unit cost per student. These charges may not apply to those students entitled to remissions, but no other students will be charged extra to cover those costs.

#### Activities

The school may charge for residential activities that fall **outside** of school hours (**see section 5**).

## 8. Music tuition within school hours

Darrick Wood School follows government legislation that states that all education provided during school hours must be free; however, music tuition is an exception to this rule.

**Charges will be made** if the teaching is **not** an essential part of either the National Curriculum (or the School's chosen curriculum) or a public examination syllabus being followed by the student(s).

The School may charge for teaching requested by parents and delivered by specialist tutors given to either an individual student 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.

**The school will not charge if** the music tuition is part of the National Curriculum or public examination syllabus being followed by the student. This includes instruments, music books and exam fees.

There is no charge for vocal or instrumental tuition for a student who is on free school meals. This includes instruments, music books and exam fees.

Darrick Wood School is dedicated to ensuring equal opportunities for all students including access to specialised music tuition. The School will therefore consider tuition for those who it is felt would benefit from this and for whom the School is in receipt of pupil premium funding. In such circumstances there will be no charge.

There is no charge for vocal or instrumental tuition for a student who is looked after by a local authority. This includes instruments, music books and exam fees.

## **9. Extended services**

Darrick Wood School provides a well-rounded and extensive education for our students which includes a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These enable the School to provide:

- high-quality learning opportunities either side of the school day
- ways of intervening early when children are at risk of poor outcomes, e.g. by providing access to study support, parenting support or to more specialist services (such as health, social care or special educational needs services)
- ways of increasing student engagement
- ways of improving outcomes and narrowing gaps in outcomes between different groups of students.

We may charge for all or part of these activities to cover the costs of resources used and teaching and non-teaching staff including staff from outside the School.

The total charge will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise others.

## **10. Refunds**

Request for refunds for trips will be considered on an individual basis and may be rejected if the School is unable to recoup the costs incurred.

In all cases of withdrawal, either voluntarily or otherwise, applications should be made in writing to person leading the activity. If approved by the Head Teacher, refunds will be processed via the original method of payment.

The School reserves the right not to refund costs where a student is withdrawn from an activity by the School because of a student's breach of the School's Behaviour Policy.

## **11. Damage to property, breakages and losses**

Where school property has been wilfully or recklessly damaged the School may charge those responsible for some or all the cost of repair or replacement. The same will apply for property that is lost (e.g. textbooks, books on loan from library).

Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged, and the School has been charged, the School may charge some or all the cost to those responsible.

Whether or not these charges will be made will be decided by the Head Teacher and dependent on the situation.

## **12. Remissions and concessions**

The School will consider the remission of charges to parents/carers who receive the following support payments:

- Income Support
- Income based Job-seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (where the person is not receiving Working Tax Credit as well and their annual income does not exceed the limit set by the state)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit

Children of families who receive these payments are also entitled to free school meals. Parents who are eligible for the remission of charges will be dealt with confidentially.

The Head Teacher will authorise the remission of charges.

The School may choose to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and students, and this will be determined by the Head Teacher.

## **13. Voluntary contributions**

The School may ask for voluntary contributions to the School for general funds or to fund activities that will enrich our students' education.

In any case where an activity cannot be afforded without voluntary funding, this will be made clear to the parents/carers by the School. If the activity is cancelled all monies paid will be returned to parents.

There is no obligation for a parent/carer to make any contribution and the School will in no way pressure parents/carers to contribute.

## **14. Inability or unwillingness to pay**

Darrick Wood School is committed to ensuring fair access and treatment of all students, and this means ensuring that no child is excluded from an activity because the parents/carers of that child are unwilling or unable to pay. If there is insufficient funding for an activity, then it will be cancelled. The identity of the child or parents of the child who did not want to make the payment, or could not make the payment, will not be disclosed under any circumstances.

## **15. Complaints**

Complaints about the implementation of this policy or any decisions taken in line with the policy will be considered as part of the School's complaints procedures.