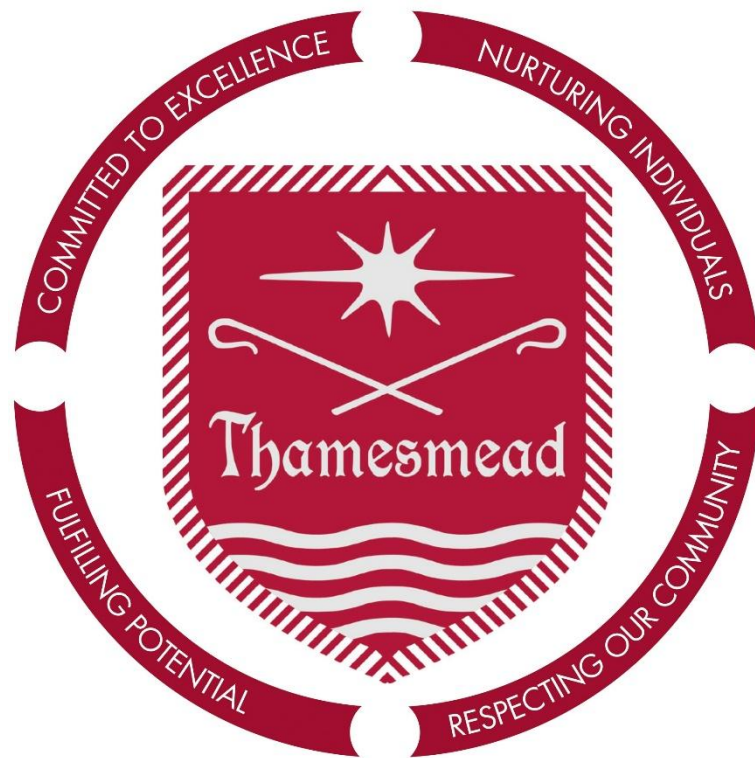


THAMESMEAD SCHOOL



POLICY ON CHARGING AND REMISSIONS FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Policy Document

Person Responsible	Business Manager
Governors Committee	Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
Review Period	Annual
Date of Review	Autumn 2025
Date of Next Review	Autumn 2026

1. Introduction

The Governors wish to encourage continuation of the rich educational experience that our pupils enjoy.

This policy is based upon the Education Act 1996 (Sections 449-462) and the DfE's departmental advice "Charging for school activities" published May 2018. Academies/trusts must follow their individual funding agreements accordingly.

It will assist and support staff in the organisation of school activities by providing clear guidance on procedures and will assure parents of consistent practice throughout the school.

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 The Governing Board

The Governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Headteacher.

The Governing Board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

2.2 Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

2.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

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

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

2.4 Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

3. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what we **cannot** charge for:

3.1 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) at the school

3.2 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

3.3 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

4. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

4.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional extras (see section 4.2)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 4.3)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities
- Examination charges incurred by the school, where the pupil has failed to complete the requirements of the examination course or to attend the examination for other than duly certificated medical reasons. Charges will be made at the Headteacher's discretion.

4.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education and activities provided wholly or mainly (in excess of 50%) outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Charges are made for re-scrutiny of an exam paper or appeal when requested by parents where the result is that no change or a lower grade is awarded. However, when the grade increases the cost of the re-mark is borne by the Exam Board. Parents are required to pay any charges in advance to the school and refunds are made where applicable.
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or governing board 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 home learning sessions)
- Travel to work experience placements except where it was agreed that special circumstances apply. Costs of work experience placements not arranged through the school's liaison organisation.
- Contributions towards materials required in practical courses where the family wishes to own the finished product.
- Costs for copying student records when requested by an entitled party.
- Resources that can only be used once such as workbooks
- The costs of:
 - repairing or replacing damaged or lost school property caused by a pupil's carelessness or vandalism. This includes costs for damage caused at other educational establishments.
 - uniform loaned to students which is not returned to the school

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
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- 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 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 extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

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 extra which is to be charged for.

4.3 Music tuition

Schools 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 national curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

4.4 Residential visits

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

5. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 3 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit, then it will be cancelled.

6. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 4 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

6.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- 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 that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's annual gross income does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family's income must be less than £7,400 per year – after tax and not including any benefits)

7. Monitoring Arrangements

The Business Manager monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Business Manager annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body.

