



NORTH STAR

COMMUNITY TRUST

Charging Policy

North Start Community Trust Academies

December 2020

Overview

Our Academies support the principle of free school education. It recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities, including visits and students' residential experiences can make towards education. It therefore aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils and as additional optional activities.

Scope

Where it applies to academies, this policy conforms to the requirements of the DfE guidance entitled '[Charging for school activities](#)' in line with Sections 449 - 462 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

NSCT Academies: -

- generally, will not charge for materials, equipment and transport supporting regular curriculum activity (provided in academy hours by the academy to carry pupils between the academy and an activity);
- will not charge for any activities which take place in academy school-time, apart from instrumental tuition for individual pupils or pupils in groups of up to four;
- may make a charge for academy-time trips or activities by inviting parents and carers to make voluntary contributions to enable academy funds go further. Children of parents / carers who do not contribute will not be treated differently from those who do make contributions;
- will have the right to cancel a trip or activity if there are insufficient voluntary contributions to make the activity possible;
- may charge for board and lodgings on residential courses;
- may convene a hardship fund panel with set criteria against which support can be allocated where deemed necessary;
- may permit organisations to charge parents / carers when such an organisation is acting independently of the academy to arrange an activity to take place during school hours and parents / carers want their children to join in that activity;
- may charge for activities (optional extras), which happen outside academy hours when these activities are not a necessary part of the National Curriculum.

- will charge for the provision of school dinners where pupils are not otherwise entitled to a free school meal.

Further charging relating to secondary academies includes

- a charge for the costs of examinations in certain circumstances, in particular:
 - for examinations which parents / carers wish their children to enter but for which the school is not preparing them;
 - for examinations which pupils fail to complete without good reason;
 - for the costs of re-scrutiny or remarking of an examination at the request of a parent / carer.

Further information about trips

We are a not for profit organisation and calculate the chargeable cost per pupil based on the total costs to run the trip (such as transport, food and drink, clothing, accommodation, equipment and activities)

In the extremely unlikely event where it later transpires that a trip or activity made a surplus or profit (for example where we've later been offered a discount or refund on part of the trip costs after the initial payment has been made) then the difference between planned and actual cost will be assessed and, if significant, will be divided by the number of participants who contributed and refunded to them. In all other circumstances, any surplus will be reinvested back into the school.

Damage to school property

Should damage to school property occur, parents and carers will be asked to make a contribution towards replacing damaged or lost school property caused wilfully or negligently by their child.