



**PORTICO**  
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

## **Charging and Remissions Policy**

<b>Date Created:</b>	October 2020
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	September 2023

<b>Signature of Chair of Trustees</b>  _____	<b>Signature of Chief Executive Officer</b>  _____
<b>Date</b>  _____	<b>Date</b>  _____

# Charging and Remissions Policy

## 1. Aims

Portico Academy Trust aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and the Education Act 1996, sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England. Portico Academy Trust schools are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements.

This policy complies with Portico Academy Trust's funding agreement and articles of association.

## 3. Definitions

- Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

### 4.1. The governing board

The Trustees of Portico Academy Trust have overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee or an individual Trustee.

Portico Academy Trust also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

### 4.2. The Head

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

### 4.3. Staff

Portico Academy Trust staff are responsible for:

Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently

Notifying the Head of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

Portico Academy Trust will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

### 4.4. Parents

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

## 5. Where charges cannot be made

Below is set out what Portico Academy Trust cannot charge for:

### 5.1 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

## **5.2 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 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

## **5.3 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

## **6. Where charges can be made**

Below is set out what Portico Academy Trust can charge for.

### **6.1 Education**

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional extras (see below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

### **6.2 Optional extras**

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

- Education provided 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
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to

other premises where the local authority 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 homework sessions)

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.

### **6.3 Music tuition**

The school 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

### **6.4 Residential visits**

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

## **7. Voluntary contributions**

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, Portico Academy Trust is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities during

school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which Portico Academy Trust may ask parents for voluntary contributions include:

School trips  
Sports activities  
Residential activities, board and lodging

There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If there are not enough funds raised for an activity or visit then it may be cancelled. In the case of residential activities, an alternative non-residential option will always be offered for children whose parents do not pay the residential contribution.

#### **8. Activities this school charges for**

The Trust may charge for the following activities:

Breakfast, after-school and sports clubs: resources, staffing and coaches  
Residential: board and lodging, transport and activities

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the Trust and reviewed each year. Parents will be informed of the charges for the coming year in at the start of each academic year.

#### **9. Remissions**

In some circumstances Schools may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Academy and will depend on the activity in question. In some circumstances, where children are on the disadvantaged register, parents may be asked to pay a small contribution.

#### **10. Monitoring arrangements**

Portico Academy Trust monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by Portico Academy Trust every three years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Trustees of Portico Academy Trust.