

CHARGING, INCLUDING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC



The 1988 Education Reform Act lays down the conditions under which the Academy may charge for activities taking place wholly or mainly during Academy hours. Governors, having discussed the legislation with the Principal, have agreed the following policy:

1. Visits undertaken as a necessary part of GCSE and other externally examined courses.

Where activities are either a necessary part of a student's curriculum or fall mainly within the Academy's working day, parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution, which will cover a proportionate cost of the activity. An example of such a visit might include a field trip to enhance coursework. No individual will be excluded because his/her parents decline to make a voluntary contribution. Where there is evidence of financial hardship, the Principal has authority to consider using Academy funds to subsidise the visit by amounts equivalent to part or all of the voluntary contribution requested. Parents of students in this situation should make the Principal or a Vice Principal aware of their child's needs which will be dealt with discreetly. However, only where sufficient money is received will such visits go ahead.

2. Other Visits

The majority of visits do not fall into category 1. They are undertaken to enhance courses and to provide students with experiences they cannot gain in the Academy. Accordingly, Governors believe a rich and varied programme of educational visits and special activities is an important and valued element of the Academy's curriculum and are confident parents will wish these visits to continue. However, it will only be possible for them to do so if they are self-financing. Participation in such activities is, of course, voluntary and is provided chiefly through voluntary allocation of time by teachers for which no charge is made.

Where such visits are not a required part of the curriculum and fall mainly outside the Academy working day, students attending such activities shall be required to pay the full cost, equally apportioned among them. The visit will go ahead only if the numbers paying make it financially viable. The situation which applies to a particular visit (Category 1 or 2) shall be set out clearly in the initial letter to parents.

3. Instrumental Music Lessons

Instrumental music lessons are an exception in law. Parents are expected to pay for such lessons, which are subsidised by the Governors. Charges are paid at the beginning of each term for that term's classes, based on a series of approximately eleven 30-minute lessons. Fees are the same irrespective of whether the lesson is individual or delivered to a small group. Examination fees are also payable by each student's parents. Students taking advantage of this scheme for instrumental music are expected to join at least one of the Academy's groups for rehearsals and to make themselves available, to a reasonable extent, for Academy concerts and community performances. (See also "Instrumental Music", paragraphs 2 and 3 and "Charging for Instrumental Music", pt3)

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

1. The County High School, Leftwich believes that enrichment activities play an important part in the education of its students.
2. The Academy believes that the *quality* of its enrichment provision is important. It will promote a wide range of such activities and students will be encouraged to take full advantage of all that is on offer.
3. The Academy fully recognises the value of the contribution made by the staff in providing a wealth of opportunities voluntarily. The Academy community will celebrate outstanding contributions or achievements both for their own sake and also to encourage others. Equally, we will help students to recognise the value by recording their involvement in their Record of Achievement, CVs, applications etc.
4. Where a student's behaviour leads the Principal to conclude that it would be inappropriate for a student to be allowed to take part in a particular activity or range of activities, that student shall be withdrawn accordingly.
5. Where activities incur costs, parents will be asked to meet the costs in full. Where, for whatever reason, contributions do not cover costs fully, the activity cannot run. Parents will be made aware of the costs of their child's involvement in writing before any commitment to participate is expected. Where this is conditional upon a fixed number taking up the offer, this will be made clear. (See Charging pt 2).
6. The Principal is given discretion to:-
 - purchase equipment to establish or further promote an activity
 - subsidise an activity where costs are considered to be high and there is a direct benefit to the school
 - subsidise individual students' involvement where hardship prevents parents paying the full amount
7. Teachers organising activities are to ensure that:
 - all Insurer's and Governors' regulations and guidelines are followed
 - Academy procedures are adopted and the visit has been sanctioned by the Principal/Head of Finance and arrangements made by the Academy's Educational Visits' Co-ordinator
 - all equipment necessary to ensure safety is available. If it is not, the activities will not take place
 - that where activities take students away from the Academy site, parents have received all the necessary information in writing and, where appropriate, colleagues and the Academy office are provided with a full list of participants and their tutor groups.

This policy covers a diverse range of activities: clubs, practices, concerts and plays, mini-enterprise, visits, European visits and exchanges, sports fixtures and competitions.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Academy greatly values its students' abilities to play musical instruments, a skill which brings pleasure both to players and listeners long after Academy days and far beyond the Academy community. We recognise the rich contribution which instrumental and choral music make to the life of the Academy and to the esteem in which it is held by the local community.

Whilst it is not possible to assume the total financial burden of the instrumental music teaching programme, the Academy wishes to recognise its value by subsidising the cost of lessons. A small fund is available to enable the Academy to meet part or, in extreme circumstances, all of the tuition fees, for students whose parents are experiencing financial hardship. (See also Charging pt 3 page 1 and "Charging for Instrumental Music", pt3).

All lessons shall be of 30 minutes duration and students will be taught in small groups or individually at the discretion of the School. This decision will be based on the needs of the students and on the availability of teachers. Although students will be released from subject lessons to attend, every effort will be made to minimise disruption to the School's normal learning programme. Parents will opt into the scheme for a term at a time and the Academy will deliver an average of 11 lessons per term. The termly fee will be the same whether a student is taught individually or in a small group.

The Academy believes that a considerable part of the benefit of being able to play an instrument is the pleasure of being able to make music with others. It recognises that Academy instrumental groups provide a valuable further learning opportunity. Furthermore, it feels that students should be aware of the support the Academy gives to their learning, and of their resulting responsibility to contribute to the musical life of the Academy in return. In consequence, those receiving instrumental music tuition are expected to join at least one of the Academy groups for rehearsals and performances (subject to the availability of transport).

CHARGING FOR INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

1. All students should pay a proportion of the cost of lessons which are subsidised by the Governors.
2. Payment should be termly in advance, without refunds and without regard to number in a group.
3. The Academy will provide a small fund to enable the tuition costs to be met in part (or, exceptionally, completely) for students whose parents are experiencing financial hardship.
4. Lessons shall be of 30 minutes duration.
5. Children have automatic release from other lessons except in extra-ordinary circumstances.
6. Peripatetic teachers should be informed of any changes as soon as possible.

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This document is part of the group which includes the Lettings Policy.