



Durham Johnston

Charging and Remissions

Date of last review	April 2016
Reviewed by:	Headteacher in consultation with the Governing Body Finance, Grounds, Premises and HR Committee
Responsibility	Headteacher
Review period	Every three years
Date of next review	April 2019



CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

1. Introduction

1.1 The Education Act (1996 Sections 449-462) and the Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) regulations set out the law on charging for school activities (in schools maintained by Local Authorities in England). Durham Johnston Comprehensive School will have due regard for national legislation.

2. Aims

2.1 This policy aims to:-

- Clarify the position of the school regarding charging for staff, parents/carers, students and other stakeholders.
- Promote consistency in the implementation of charging for school activities.

3. Principles

3.1 This policy is underpinned by the principles noted below.

- The policy and its implementation will have due regard for the current legislative framework.
- The policy applies to all members of the school community.

4. Implementation

4.1 Durham Johnston Comprehensive School will not charge for:

- Education provided during school hours, including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment, as well as transport costs for regular transporting of students to premises where the school has arranged for students to be educated as part of the formal curriculum (e.g. weekly College placements).
- Education provided 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.
- Basic tuition for students so that they can learn to play a musical instrument, if this is required as part a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at school (or part of religious education). If the school is providing instruments or tuition for students these will be according to the availability of instruments and tutors, and not necessarily on the instrument or at the level of the students' choice.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the student has been prepared for it at the school.

4.2 Durham Johnston Comprehensive School may charge for any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the student's parent/carer wishes him/her to own them. Optional extras such as:

- (a) Instrumental and/or vocal tuition
- (b) Education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - a) Part of the National Curriculum
 - b) Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the school; or
 - c) Part of religious education
- (c) examination entry fee(s) if the registered students has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;
- (d) board and lodging for a student on a residential visit
- (e) 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.

4.3 Parents may be asked to provide:

- (a) transport to and from any educational provision arranged for students who do not conform to school expectations and are removed from circulation
- (b) materials above and beyond the minimum requirement for the curriculum. For example, specialised music tuition.
- (c) provisions for food technology lessons (should the food be taken home).

4.4 Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made. Durham Johnston School may ask for voluntary contributions for any school activity. However if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions this should be made clear to parents/carers at the outset.

It is important to note that no student should be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unable to pay. The school can exempt parents from paying for an activity or reduce such payments. For example, if they are in receipt of certain benefits.

4.5 An examination entry fee may be charged to parents/carers if:

- The student was not prepared for the examination, at the school;
- The examination is not on the set list but the school arranges for the student to take it;
- A student fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing body originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.
- The exam is a re-sit;
- A student misses a public examination because of an unauthorised absence taken during school time (e.g, a holiday).
- If a student misses an essential element of their course due to an unauthorised absence (e.g, holiday) during school time the school reserves the right to charge for the supervision time needed for the student to catch up the missed element. For example, a Controlled Assessment requiring staff supervision

5. Acts of Vandalism and Negligence

Durham Johnston Comprehensive school reserves the right to recover part, or the whole cost of damage to buildings or equipment which occur as a result of vandalism or negligence by a student. Repayment terms may be negotiated with parents in need of such a facility.

6. Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed each three years in line with the annual cycle of whole school improvement planning. The review will be led by the appropriate member of the School Leadership. Monitoring of the impact of this policy will be linked to established processes of self-evaluation.