



CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Amended / Reviewed by: Governing Body Resources Sub-Committee

Date adopted by Governing Body: 2nd December 2021

Next review date: December 2022

Introduction

- Vale School does not charge for the daily education of students.
- This policy is monitored by the governors' Resources Committee, and will be reviewed as outlined in the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Prohibited Charges

In accordance with legislation, governors ensure that charges are not made for the following:

- 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 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;
- tuition for students learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as an essential part of the curriculum.
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the student has been prepared for it at the school;
- education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;
- education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the school, or part of the schools basic curriculum for religious education;
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying students on a residential trip;
- transporting registered students to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered students to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for students to be educated;
- transport provided in connection with an educational trip.

Voluntary contributions

- When organising school trips, visits or residential school journeys in school time - or mainly in school time - the school encourages parents to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions planned trips may have to be cancelled, (although this would be unusual as the school always tries to carry out such trips in the best interests of students).
- On occasion the school can consider Pupil Premium funding for students whose families are eligible for free school meals, (*see 'Remission's section below*). Trips, visits and residential school journeys may, therefore, include students whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these students differently from any others.

- The school will periodically ask for contributions towards the cost of ingredients for cookery lessons, but again these are entirely voluntary.
- All students study music as part of the school's curriculum delivery. The school does not charge for music lessons. However, there is a charge for individual and group music tuition when this is not part of the curriculum, and this provision does not fall within the voluntary contributions model.

Remissions

- Students of parents registered as eligible for free school meals (FSM) can receive a free school meal. Other parents must pay for meals unless they choose to send in a packed lunch for their son/daughter.
- Parents of students registered as eligible for FSM at any point in the last 6 years, (or parents of looked after, adopted or in-care students), may be offered assistance in paying for day or residential trips for their son/daughter through the Pupil Premium, (*see below*).
- The Pupil Premium can also assist in purchasing a school uniform for eligible families.
- In addition, where Vale School provides after-school and holiday clubs at the school, hourly charges are made for the service and costs are published annually to parents. Parents may be offered assistance in paying for places through the Pupil Premium. (Many parents use their Personal Budgets to fund places).

Parents in receipt of one or more of the credits listed below can qualify for a Free School Meal:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Assisted as an Asylum Seeker under part VI of the Immigration Act 1999;
- Annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit only, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have a Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks
- after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit. Free School Meals can be paid for those four weeks.