



Hampton Primary Partnership

Charging Policy

This policy was adopted/updated:	July 2023
This policy will be reviewed:	Annually - Summer 2024
Governor Committee Responsibility:	Resource committee
Statutory policy:	Yes
Policy origins:	Charging for School Activities.Gov 2014

Date:	Comments:	Next Review:
November 22		Autumn 2023
July 2023	Charging to produce letters and reports added to the policy	July 2024
Nov 2023	Change made to independent schools section	

Introduction

This policy should be read in the context of the Department for Education Charging for School Activities Policy and sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 which sets out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England.

The basic principle is that all education provided during school hours is free of charge. There is no charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum except for individual or group music tuition such as that provided by the Richmond Music Trust and other peripatetic music teachers'. This policy covers any charges that may be made in relation to the curriculum or other optional services.

Voluntary Contributions

If a parent wishes their child to take part in an educational visit and is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution the child will be allowed to participate fully in the trip or visit and will not be treated differently from any others. Parents with children entitled to free school meals (FSM) or who have difficulty in making the voluntary contribution may contact the school office in confidence, as assistance may be available.

Swimming is part of the national curriculum and the school is responsible for the cost of the lessons for children; however we will ask parents to make a voluntary contribution if possible.

There are times when the school pays additional costs to support the visit or trip. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. This information is available on request.

In September 2018 HPP introduced a voluntary contribution of £10 per child per term, applied to a maximum of two children across HPP. This contribution will cover the costs for food technology, arts week and additional activities to enhance the children's learning and promotion of mental health.

Additional Activities Organised for Pupils – Educational Visits

Throughout the year day visits and visiting workshops are organised. Such visits play an important part in the school curriculum, extending and enriching the work started in the classroom. The school notifies parents of the cost of each visit or workshop and asks parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel the visit.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school which require voluntary contributions by parents:

- visits to museums;
- visits to the theatre;
- musical events;
- visiting workshops;
- visiting theatre groups;
- visits to environmental centres.

Residential Visits – Outside of the School Curriculum

A voluntary contribution will be requested from parents to cover the cost of board and lodging, under the terms of the Act. Our school policy is to identify the best way to cover these additional costs for each child inclusively. To that end we would endeavour to fund the same costs for pupils from families entitled to pupil premium or have special financial circumstances; a family with twins for example.

When the school informs parents about a forthcoming visit, they should make it clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances;
- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, if Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 (financial year 2013/14);
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- an income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

Parents may also be asked for voluntary contributions for:

- the cost of all transport incurred by the visit;
- the entrance fees, insurance costs etc.

A deposit and initial money for a weekly contribution system may be put in place by the school. All voluntary contributions are usually required to be fully collected before the visit centre, however, the Head of School may extend the time the parent can spread the cost at his/her discretion.

Exceptions

No child will be excluded if no voluntary contribution has been made by parents/carers. However, the Executive Leadership Team is authorised to cancel an activity or trip should insufficient contributions be received.

If the visit is cancelled, it will either be rescheduled or any money collected will be refunded to parents. Parents will be informed in good time as to why such a decision is taken.

Music Tuition

All children are entitled to study music as part of the school curriculum. There is no charge for this.

There is a charge for individual or group music/vocal tuition if this is not a part of the National Curriculum.

Activities Arranged by Third Parties

The regulations allow for charging for activities which are arranged by outside parties e.g. after school clubs.

Damages, Breakages or Loss

The Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge for the cost of replacing damaged school equipment (i.e. a broken window) or a damaged or lost library book when this is the result of a child's poor behaviour choices. This includes school IT devices which are loaned to children off site. This is detailed in an equipment loan agreement which must be signed by a parent or guardian prior to the devices being loaned.

Identification Verification, i.e. Passport Application, Visa Extension Letters

Considering the volume of requests received, Hampton Primary Partnership requests a £30 fee for supporting a passport application and a £15 fee per letter for producing attendance at school confirmation letters for purposes such as visa applications and extensions. If the family is in receipt of FSM there will be no charge. For countersigning documents to confirm identity for banks or other legal purposes (not including passports) there will be a £15 per individual request. This money goes to the school fund which is used to support teaching and learning across the schools.

Private Therapy/Diagnosis Support eg Written Reports, Attendance at Meetings

Hampton Primary Partnership always endeavors to support children through private assessments, therapies and the diagnosis process, and where this takes place through the NHS there is no charge to parents. However, if parents/carers choose to pursue assessments, therapies and/or a diagnosis privately, Hampton Primary Partnership requests a fee for the staff time taken to support this. Hampton Primary Partnership requests a £15 fee to support a private assessment/therapy/diagnosis etc, typically in the form of a personalised report. The charge is per report. Should a staff member need to attend a meeting with a private healthcare professional, for example an Educational Psychologist, Hampton Primary Partnership requests a fee of £45 per hour to cover staff cover costs. This money goes to the school fund which is used to support teaching and learning across the schools.

Application for Disability Living Allowance

HPP supports families to apply for disability living allowance. If the family is being consistently supported by the school Parent Support Advisor or is in receipt of FSM there will be no charge but the school reserves the right to charge £30 for the completion of this form in all other circumstances.

Independent School Application Support

If parents apply for an independent school place for their child, HPP will receive a request for a confidential school report. Hampton Primary Partnership requests a £40 fee to provide this detailed report to support the application. This report will be in the HPP format. The fee covers the cost of the

class teacher completing the HPP pupil reference form as well as leadership and admin time. This form will be submitted to the secondary school once payment from parents has been received. Further requests made for the same pupil will incur an additional £5 administration fee. This money provides release time for teachers in recognition of the additional hours they have worked preparing the reports.

Charges Related to School Premises

Refer to the individual schools' Lettings Policies & Scale of Charges.