GREAT OAK MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Charges and Remissions Policy

Approved by the Board of Directors May 2017

The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced new provisions on charging for school activities. The purposes of these provisions are:

- to maintain the right to a free school education.
- to ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within normal school time should be available to all pupils, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
- to give educational authorities and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours.
- to confirm that schools may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, either in or outside school hours.

The Governors believe that activities such as swimming and educational visits (or visitors) are an extension to, and an enrichment of the curriculum. They have adopted the National Policy of Charging for School Activities, which allows the school to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to support these activities. The policy is reviewed annually.

Introduction

- All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual music tuition.

Voluntary contributions

- When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid the full contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.
- If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request. In the case of Residential trips when school has to make a commitment in advance, any deposit received from the parents will be non-refundable.
- The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:
    - •visits to museums;
    - •sporting activities which require transport expenses;
    - •outdoor adventure activities;
    - •visits to the theatre;
    - •school trips;
    - •musical events.

Residential visits

- If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we make a charge to cover the costs of any workshops, board, lodging and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to speak in confidence to the Headteacher

Music tuition

- Where music is studied as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.
- There is a charge for individual music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum.
- Children taking lessons must give a terms notice and pay for the whole of the term whether the lessons are taken or not.

Swimming

- The school organises swimming lessons.

These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for the swimming lessons but request a contribution for the cost of the coach to take the children to the Lord Butler Leisure Centre. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

Lettings charges

The school office is responsible for raising invoices for lettings on a termly basis.
Any other lettings would be charged at the rate recommended by the Governing Body.