



CHARGING POLICY

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Introduction

RMBC set out guidance to School Governing Bodies in the Scheme for Financing Schools, Financial Regulations & Guidance for Best Practise.

School governing bodies, subject to the limited exceptions referred to in this advice, and cannot charge for education which is provided during school hours including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment. Also they cannot charge for education provided outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum.

Transport

Schools **cannot** charge for:

- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport which enables a pupil to reach an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school; and
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

Please refer to the BLC Travel Assistance Policy regarding Home to School Transport

- It is parents/carers responsibility to apply for the IGO bus pass.
- On admission pupils are entitled to free transport if they live more than 3 miles away from their centre. School will apply for this initially but responsibility will then fall to the parents to maintain this.
- Until a bus pass is issued bus fare will be refunded at concessionary rates.
- Replacement bus passes are the responsibility of parents and at this point bus fares will not be refunded.

Parents/carers of pupils who have a statement of special needs or an EHC plan should refer the RMBC Travel Assistance Policy. Parents/carers of all other students should refer to the BLC Travel Assisted Policy.

School Meals

Governing bodies have direct responsibility for the provision and delivery of school meals and determine the charges for those meals so long as those pupils entitled to a free meal can obtain a meal, free of charge.

It is anticipated that all schools would wish to set their meals prices at the level determined by the LA under its School Meal Pricing Policy, regardless of whether the school receives its service through the Council's contractor 'Facilities Management' or another provider. However, it is recognised that this is within the remit of the governing body.

The BLC set their meals prices at the level determined by the LA under its School Meal Pricing Policy

Residential visits

Schools **cannot** charge for:

- education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours;
- education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

Schools **can** charge for:

- board and lodging and the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

Where a school informs parents about a forthcoming visit, they should make it clear that parents who can prove that they are in receipt of benefits such as income support will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging.

The BLC do not normally charge for residential visits but reserve the right to ask for a contribution towards the costs.

Music Tuition

Although the law states that, in general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to that rule.

The BLC do not charge for music tuition.

School Milk & Breakfast Club

All schools are obliged to offer milk on a daily basis to all primary aged children. This should be provided free of charge to all children in nursery and in KS1 and to children in KS2 who are entitled to a free school meal.

The BLC do not charge for Breakfast club or refreshments provided during the school day, after schools clubs, extended school or youth provision other than the school meal provision.

School trips - Voluntary contributions

Nothing in legislation prevents a school governing body from asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities.

However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the governing body or head teacher should make this clear to parents at the outset.

The governing body or head teacher should also make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution.

It is important to note that no child should be excluded from any activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it must be cancelled. Schools must ensure that they make this clear to parents. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child must still be given an equal chance to go on the visit. Schools should make it clear to parents at the outset what their policy for allocating places on school visits will be.

When making requests for voluntary contributions, parents must not be made to feel pressurised into paying as it's voluntary and not compulsory. Schools should avoid sending colour coded letters to parents as a reminder to make payments and direct debit or standing order mandates should not be sent to parents when requesting contributions.

The BLC do not normally charge for residential visits but reserve the right to ask for a contribution towards the costs.

School trips – Educational or Non Educational - Dealing with income and expenditure

The determination of whether a trip is 'Educational' or 'Non Educational' is at the discretion of the Headteacher. As a general guide, if the trip generates class work or discussion either before or after the trip then it would fall into the 'Educational' category.

If the trip is regarded as a treat for the children such as a Christmas pantomime or an end of academic year trip to Blackpool or Alton Towers for example, then these would fall into the 'Non Educational' category.

If the school trip is regarded as 'Educational' then it is recommended that any expenditure (including VAT) is charged against the **school's ISB account**. Any voluntary contribution received is also receipted against the **school's ISB account** but in all cases, this income should be treated as 0% VAT – Non Business. Furthermore, the income collected should **not** exceed the NET cost of a particular school trip as the school is **able** to claim back the VAT expenditure on 'Educational' trips.

If the school trip is regarded as 'Non Educational' then it is recommended that the Gross expenditure (which includes VAT) is charged against the **Private School Fund account**. Any voluntary contribution received is also receipted against the **Private School Fund account**. This income should be collected inclusive of 20% Standard VAT as the school is **unable** to claim back the VAT expenditure on 'Non Educational' trips.

The BLC do not normally charge for school trips but reserve the right to ask for a contribution towards the costs.

Damage

Parents will be asked for a donation of no more than £50.00 where damage has been caused by their child. We reserve the right to pursue criminal action if required.

Uniform

Pupils who attract Pupil Premium are given a free sweatshirt and polo every year. Pupils who do not attract Pupil Premium, the parents/carer will be charged for uniform. Currently the price for an adult sweatshirt is £10.00. The price for a child's sweatshirt is £8.50. An adult polo shirt is priced as £9.00 and a child's polo shirt is priced as £7.00. Uniform can be paid for by cash or by cheque made out to Brownhill School