

NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL

Policy Reviewed by Finance Committee :	9 November 2106
Ratified by Full Governing Body	30 November 2016
Next Review:	Autumn Term 2018
Signature of Chair of Governors:	

CHARGING POLICIES

Additional activities at Northgate High School make a valuable contribution towards the all round educational experience of students and their personal and social development. Legislation allows schools to charge for certain activities which take place both inside, and outside, school hours. The charging policy adopted by the Governor of Northgate High School is as follows.

Charges for School Activities

You will be charged with the following activities:

- Music tuition: individual tuition in playing a musical instrument, which is neither part of the syllabus for an approved public examination, nor part of the National Curriculum. Schools may charge for instrumental tuition given to groups of no more than four pupils. The school will seek to subsidise lessons where parents are in receipt of qualifying benefits or the pupil is eligible for free school meals as well as students who have opted to do a GCSE in music.
- Ingredients and materials: ingredients and materials for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance that they wish to receive the finished articles.
- Travel: the cost of travel when a pupil makes use of transport not provided by the authority or school, to travel direct from home to an activity approved of, but not provided by, the authority or school.
- Board and lodging: board and lodging will be charged in all cases where a school activity involves pupils in nights away from home.

Voluntary Contributions

We may also organize activities during school time that are voluntary and collective and can only take place provided sufficient voluntary contributions are received by a particular date. In this case, there will be no discrimination against those who have not made a voluntary contribution.

Activities outside school hours

A charge will be made for all non-residential activities, which take place wholly, or more than 50% outside school hours, where the child's participation has been agreed in advance by the parents. The charge will include the cost of travel, entrance fees, insurance, books, equipment and any staff (teaching or non-teaching) engaged specifically for the activity.

Residential trips outside school hours - a residential trip is deemed to take place outside school hours if the number of 'missed' school sessions is less than half of the number of half days taken up by the trip. Charges will be made as described above.

Public Examinations - charges are made for the entry of a pupil for a prescribed examination for which he/she has not been prepared by the school, or where the pupil entered for examinations in the same subject with two examination boards.

Remission of charges - only parents who are in receipt of Income Support, Working Families' Credit, Disabled Person's Tax Credit or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance are eligible for remission of charges. Remission of charges only applies to board and lodgings charges, which are levied directly by the LEA or the school and where they relate to activities, deemed to take place wholly or partly in school hours.

Remission will not apply to such charges when they relate to activities wholly outside school hours, except if the activity is prescribed in a syllabus for a public examination, if it is prescribed by the National Curriculum or fulfills duties relating to Religious Education.

Parents who have difficulty meeting any charges should discuss the matter in confidence with the head teacher.

Broken equipment (replacement)

The Governors will allow pupils and/or their parents to be asked for a contribution towards the cost of replacement items where these were damaged or broken as a direct result of misconduct. In the event of deliberate vandalism the contribution may equate to the full cost.

Refunds Policy

The full contribution to an activity will be refunded if a child is absent due to illness.

If a trip has to be cancelled parental contributions will be refunded.

If contributions to an activity exceed the total cost a refund will be given if the excess per child is over £5 or 1% of the contribution whichever is the greater.

Excess income less than the above amounts per child will be retained within school funds.

Excess of expenditure will be funded from school funds.