

Crossacres Primary Academy

Charging Policy

Children who attend Crossacres Primary Academy will not be charged for educational school activities only extra activities over and above the National Curriculum.

Education partly during school hours

Sometimes an activity may happen partly during and partly outside the school day. If most of the time spent on a non-residential activity occurs during school hours, no charge will be made although a voluntary contribution may be requested. If most of the time is outside school hours (e.g. an evening trip) a charge may be made.

Nursery Education

Education of children of a statutory school age is provided free but only 15 hours free childcare education is available to Nursery aged children. Working parents are eligible to apply for a 30 Hours code on the GOV.UK website after which the school then receives a childcare code enabling access to additional funding. The Academy reserves the right to charge where a parent/carer meets the criteria of a working parent and does not claim. The amount charged for non-working parent/carers for the extra 15 hours will normally not be charged for due to the socio-economic characteristics of the intake and the effect that has on the Academy's funding levels.

Where the parent/carer is not able to access public funds as they are in the country on a VISA (and this being a stipulation on VISA entry) then the Academy reserves the right for the additional 15 hours education to be chargeable.

Voluntary contributions

Although the school cannot charge for school-time activities, they may still invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions (in cash or kind) to make school resources go further. All requests to parents for voluntary contributions must make it quite clear that the contributions must be voluntary. Children of parents who do not contribute will not be treated any differently. If an activity cannot take place without some help from parents this should be explained to them at the planning stage.

Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible and there is no way to make up the shortfall, the activity must be cancelled. No pupil will be left out of a trip because the parent has not made a contribution.

The amount of voluntary contribution asked for from each pupil will not exceed the cost of the trip.

Education outside school hours

Parents can only be charged for activities that happen outside school hours when these activities are not a necessary part of the national curriculum or do not form part of the schools curriculum.

Charges can be made for other activities that happen outside school hours if parents agree to pay. These are referred to as “optional extras”. It is up to the school to decide whether or not to make a charge. Parents will be informed by letter of the charge of the “optional extra” and how the amount of money has been arrived at.

Residential Activities

Special rules apply for residential activities. A trip counts as falling in school time if the number of school sessions missed, makes up 50% or more of the trip.

If a residential activity takes place largely during school time and meets the needs of the national curriculum or RE then a charge will be made for board and lodging. Parents/carers may also be asked to contribute to Transport costs.

However parents in receipt of the following allowances do not have to pay for residential board and lodging but may still be asked to contribute to Transport costs:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income does not exceed £16,190
- Guaranteed State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

The Academy should advise all parents of the right to claim free activities if they are receiving these benefits.

Musical Instrument Tuition

Charges may be made for teaching either an individual or groups to play a musical instrument, only if it not part of the national curriculum.

Agreed by Governors on 29 January 2024