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## Charging Policy

Date of Review	June 2023
Next Review Date	June 2025
CEO	Sam Coy
Chair of the Trust	Sarah Richards
Signed	Signed Copy held centrally
Date	30/6/2025



## **Scholars Academy Trust Charging Policy**

Scholars Academy Trust supports the principal of the right to free school education. However, the 1988 Education Act gives Scholars Academy Trust the discretion to make charges, under certain circumstances, for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, whether during or outside school hours, from any parent/carer.

### **School Visits and activities in school hours**

Scholars Academy Trust recognises the valuable contributions made by parents/carers towards activities which enrich their children's learning experience. The trust/school expects that many parents/carers will wish to continue to support such activities in this way so that their children enjoy as full and broad a curriculum as possible. Indeed, the Trust/school anticipates that several activities may **only** continue with parents'/carers' voluntary contributions.

Nevertheless, we recognise the current cost of living crisis and the challenges that many families face. As a result our schools may be able to offer some financial support, in certain circumstances, towards the cost of curriculum-based activities and be sympathetic to any parent/carer requests for financial support. Scholars Academy Trust will not seek to disadvantage any financially disadvantaged pupils.

However, for any activities when voluntary contributions are invited, the school reserves the right to cancel such activities where insufficient voluntary contributions are not forthcoming.

Teachers may request a small voluntary contribution for class-based activities e.g. cooking, sewing, pottery or presents that they make at various times of the year. This will be requested on a termly basis but no child will miss out on the activity as result of their parent not paying and every effort will be made to cover this within the school budget.

### **Residential Visits**

Schools within Scholars Academy Trust offer children the opportunity to take part in a number of residential visits in Key Stage 2. These visits are a valuable part of developing children's self-esteem, confidence, and independence alongside the curriculum development. The overall costs of these visits are always kept to a minimum, but it is expected that unless sufficient contributions are given to cover board, lodging and travel the headteacher has the right to cancel the trip.

### **Extended School Activities**

All extended school activities that take place after school may incur a charge depending on the nature of the activity and who has the overall responsibility. Clubs organised by external agencies will charge the parent and the agreement is with the parent and the company.

School staff-based activities may have a small charge to cover basic equipment e.g. art club, cooking

### **Lettings and other fees for use of school premises**

All lettings have to be approved by the Local Governing Body who will consider all requests on an individual basis. However, the Headteacher has the discretion to act on behalf of the Governing Body on ones related to extended schools. The rate is dependent on the charges being made to parents.

The community classes are currently given free of charge to the relevant groups but they are only allowed to have children within them from the base school. Should this be opened to children not from the school concerned then the agreement would have to reconsidered.

All groups must fill the relevant letting forms.

Use of the hall for other activities will be subject to the recommended letting procedures and rates dictated by County Hall.

### **Long Term Leases**

The governors may have a separate agreement with various groups e.g. Gingerbread at Launde and Air Cadets at Glenfield which is devised in consultation with the LA and the weekly fee has been agreed which will be reviewed biannually or in line with initial contract.