

Brine Leas School

An Academy

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

At BLS we are committed to providing a free school education that is inclusive to all students. The 1996 Education Act sections 449-462 sets out the law on charging for school activities and visits and the Leadership Group have considered this documentation when producing this policy:

We will not charge for the following:-

- Any admission application to BLS.
- Education provided during school hours (including resources) for National Compulsory Curriculum.
- Education provided outside school hours when it forms part of the National Curriculum or is part of a syllabus for a prescribed examination for which the student is being prepared for at BLS.
- Music tuition when the tuition is part of the National Curriculum or part of a syllabus for a prescribed examination for which the student is being prepared for at BLS.
- Entry to a prescribed examination which the student is being prepared for at BLS.
- We reserve the right to charge for additional examination re-sits when requested by a student or parent.

COMPULSORY CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES/VISITS

Where visits or activities are undertaken as a necessary part of the curriculum parents¹ will be asked for a voluntary contribution, we will make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution; however where the activity cannot be funded without such voluntary contributions, the Headteacher will make it clear to parents from the outset.

No individual student will be excluded from an activity simply because their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. Where there is evidence of financial hardship, the Business Manager has the authority to use school funds to subsidise the activity or visit and any requests will be treated confidentially.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/VISITS/OPTIONAL EXTRAS

The majority of activities and visits fall into this category, they are undertaken to enhance courses and provide students with exciting opportunities that cannot always be provided in school. At BLS we believe the rich and varied programme of activities and visits offered is an invaluable element of the education of all our students and feel they gain valuable learning experience directly from them. We are confident that parents will wish for these activities to continue; however this will only be possible if the majority of them are self-financing.

¹ For the purposes of this document parent(s) is used as a term for anyone who has the main responsibility of care for a student at BLS

Therefore optional activities/visits will be charged at full cost, apportioned equally to the number of participants and will not proceed unless costs are met by those wishing to take part or there are sufficient subsidies available. Participation will, of course, remain voluntary.

We have established a fund, which is increasing over time and will be available for the school to support those families who may be excluded from some activities due to their financial circumstances. (See Remissions below).

INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

BLS currently charges £110 (£100) per term for a minimum of 10 lessons of 30 minutes of individual Instrumental Tuition. There is a 10% reduction for sibling discount or when students take up instruction for more than one instrument and should parents wish to pay for the full year the cost is reduced to £315 (£285).

OTHER CHARGES

The school may also invite voluntary contributions towards the cost of cooking ingredients, materials and equipment where the parents wish to keep the end product.

The school may make charges for removal of graffiti and breakages or damage to school property when it appears to have been due to vandalism.

For the tariff of charges for casual or community lettings please refer to our Lettings Policy.

EXAMINATION FEES

BLS reserves the right to make a charge for examinations re-sits or when a student fails without good reason to complete any examination when the school has originally paid the entry fee.

BL6 will pay the first examination entry fee for all students who satisfactorily complete each of their courses, this includes the fulfillment of all required coursework assignments and satisfactory attendance in all lessons (95%), unless there are exceptional circumstances which justify otherwise.

BL6 students whose attendance drops below the satisfactory attendance criteria may be required to pay for their examination entry fees.

BL6 students who wish to sit an examination against the advice of their tutors, or request to resit a unit will be charged.

REMISSIONS

The Governing Body may wish to remit in full or part of the cost of any activity to particular parents for example those in receipt of:-

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16190 (13-14 rate frozen) as assessed by HMRC.
- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances.

All parents will be informed that finance assistance is available by request to the Business manager. This also applies to compulsory items of school uniform.

STUDENT PREMIUM

Students eligible for Free School Meals/C4C/CIS/Ever 6 since 2006 will not be charged for uniform, compulsory trips, music tuition, various resources and cooking ingredients. They will also be able to attend extra-curricular activities and non compulsory trips at a reduced rate or without charge. This will be at the Business Manager's discretion and according to Pupil Premium funding and other intervention requirements.

Compiled/Reviewed by: K Bradshaw	Date: November 2015
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