



Charging and Remissions Policy

Active from: 24.08.2022

Review Date: September 2023

Policy Version: 1.3

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Procedure management log

Document Name	Charging and Remissions Policy
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Date approved/ ratified	
Date active	1 st September 2022
Date of review	September 2023

Document history

Version	Date authored	Date approved	Date active
1.1	01.09.2019	01.09.2019	01.09.2019
1.2	31.08.2021		01.09.21
1.3	24.08.2022		01.09.2022

Madani Schools Federation

Madani Boys School | Madani Girls School

Charging and Remissions Policy 2021 – 22

Introduction

The Education Act 1996 sets out the law on charging for school activities. It states that Schools have a duty to provide parents with information regarding the charges that can and cannot be made for the services and activities provided by the School.

The Governing Body are responsible for determining the content of this policy and the Executive Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that it is implemented.

1.0 School Admissions

The law prohibits any kind of charge relating to a pupil's admission to the schools and prohibits consideration of parents' ability to contribute in any way to the school.

2.0 Educational activities within school hours

2.1 'School hours' are defined as being those hours during which the school is in session, but excluding the mid-day break.

2.2 No charges will be made for any activity or materials which are essential to fulfil the statutory curriculum.

2.3 Voluntary contributions may be asked for to enable extra activities, which are deemed educationally desirable, to take place. It may also be stated that such an activity will not be able to take place unless enough contributions are received to finance that activity. The contributions requested will reflect the cost of that activity less any subsidy from funds available to the school.

2.4 Materials required which would result in a finished product, may be charged for as long as parents have been asked in advance if they wish to own that finished product.

2.5 Parents will be expected to provide items of clothing such as aprons and football boots. The school will continue to provide essential protective equipment such as safety goggles.

3.0 Educational Activities outside school hours

3.1 Charges for such activities may be made except where the activities are required either:

- (a) as part of the specification of a prescribed public examination; Or
- (b) to fulfil statutory duties relating to the taught curriculum in which case no charge may be made with the exception of board and lodging charges for a residential visit (see sections 4.1 to 4.3)

- 3.2 Where charges are made the cost may not exceed the actual cost to the pupil and cannot subsidise any other pupils participating. The cost of those pupils remitted from charging will be met by funds available to the school.
- 3.3 The costs incurred by teachers providing the activity may be included in the costs to pupils as long as such teachers are engaged on a separate contract by the governors for that activity.
- 3.4 A pupil's participation in such an activity will be a matter for parental choice and on the basis of a willingness to meet any charges applicable. Thus such an agreement is a pre-requisite to a pupil's inclusion.
- 3.5 Such charges will take into full account any subsidy provided by other bodies and reduced accordingly.
- 3.6 It will not be possible to ask parents of participating pupils to subsidise other pupils taking part in the visit.

4.0 Definitions by the Act

4.1 Day visits and non-residential activities are deemed to take place during school hours if 50% or more of the time spent on the activity, including any connected travel, occurs during school hours. (See Section 2.1) The Charging Policy for such an activity will therefore follow 2.1 – 2.5.

4.2 A Residential activity is defined as being one which involves pupils spending one or more nights away from home. Such an activity is deemed to take place during school hours if the number of school sessions taken up by the activity is 50% or more of the number of half days (12 hours) involved (in this connection a 'half day' is defined as any period of 12 hours ending at noon or midnight on any day). The charging policy for such an activity will therefore follow 2.1 – 2.5 except that

- (a) the full actual costs per pupil for board and lodging may be charged to the parent and
- (b) such a cost must be fully remitted if the pupil is in receipt of Free School Meals and must be met by funds available to the school.

4.3 A residential activity is deemed to take place outside of school hours if the number of school sessions taken up by the activity is less than 50% of the number of half days (12 hours) involved. An appropriate charge may be made to the parents unless the activity is required either:

- (a) as part of the specification of a prescribed public examination; or (b) to fulfil statutory duties relating to the taught curriculum

In which case only board and lodging costs can be charged and these must be wholly remitted if the child is in receipt of Free School Meals.

5.0 Entry for Public Examinations

5.1 No charge will be made for a candidate's first entry to any prescribed public examination for which the candidate has been prepared at the school, whether during or outside school hours. Resit examinations will be charged unless the candidate is in receipt of free school meals or has suffered illness or a 'life event' that caused the candidate to perform worse in the examination that would normally have been expected.

5.2 Candidates will be entered for each examination in a specification for a prescribed public examination for which the pupil has been prepared for entry by the school except where;

- (a) in the opinion of the LGB there are educational reasons for not doing so; or
- (b) where parents request in writing that the candidate should not be entered.

5.3 Parents will be informed in writing as soon as it has been decided for which examinations candidates should be entered.

5.4 Where the preparation provided by the school would enable a candidate to take two or more prescribed public examinations in the same syllabus the requirement to enter a pupil applies to a single examination entry only. However, no charge will be made to the parents for a "double" entry if the school has prepared the candidate for the examination.

5.5 Where it is agreed to enter a candidate for a prescribed examination for which the candidate has not been prepared by the school, the full cost of the entry may be charged to the candidate or parents.

5.6 Where a candidate has, with parental agreement, been entered for a nonprescribed public examination a charge may be made for

- (a) entry fee
- (b) actual cost of any preparation provided by the school outside school hours.
- (c) costs relating to the school's teaching staff if the staff have been specifically engaged under a contract for services for the purpose of providing the optional extra.

5.7 Examination entry fees may be recovered from parents if a candidate fails without good reason to complete the requirements for any public examination for which fees have been paid by the school or the school is liable to pay. Requirements may include coursework or the sitting of final examinations.

6.0 Voluntary Contributions

6.1 Any such contributions must be genuinely voluntary and it will be made clear to parents if contributions are requested that;

- (a) there is no obligation to contribute; and
- (b) pupils will be treated the same whether or not their parents have contributed.

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6.2 If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, this will be made clear to parents in an initial letter indicating;

- (a) the nature of the proposed activity and its education value;
- (b) the contribution per pupil which would be required if the activity were to take place; and
- (c) the activity would not take place if insufficient contributions were forthcoming.

7.0 Breakages and Fines

7.1 Parents may be asked to pay for the cost of any damage resulting from a pupil's misbehaviour.

7.2 Parents may be asked to pay for the replacement of any lost or damaged materials in the care of the pupil.