



UTC South Durham Charging and Remissions Policy



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Approved by	Governing Body
Signed: (Principal) 	Date: 10 June 22
Signed: (Chair of Governors) 	Date: 10 June 22

Date to be reviewed by	June 2023
Review History	Reviewed – Tom Dower Oct 19 Reviewed – Jean Bell Nov 21 Reviewed – Vanessa Stobart May 22
Responsibility	CFO

1. Introduction

This policy has been approved for use, as outlined in the DfE's guidance on Statutory Policies for Schools – October 2014.

UTC South Durham wishes to make a broad programme of activities accessible to as many students as possible. This policy is intended to maintain a fair and coherent system of charges and remissions within the constraints of the UTC budget. It also defines other circumstances when the UTC may wish to ask for voluntary contributions. The policy is written to comply with the relevant terms of the Education Act 1996, the Education (School Sessions and Charges and Remissions Policies) (Information) (England) Regulations 1999 and the Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) Regulations 1989. It also states the UTC's policy for charging for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. Policy objectives

2.1 Charging

No student should have his/her access to the curriculum limited by charges. However, the UTC reserves the right to levy a charge in any circumstances permissible under statute as detailed below. When charges are to be made, the UTC reserves the absolute right to determine whether the activity has to be cancelled if an insufficient number of families are prepared to pay for the activity to take place.

2.2 Voluntary contributions

Where a charge cannot be made (as is often the case for activities which are an essential part of the curriculum, or religious education) parents may nevertheless be asked to make a voluntary contribution. The matter of a voluntary contribution will not be a factor in deciding whether a student is allowed to participate in an activity to be financed by voluntary contributions.

2.3 Remissions

The UTC will apply the statutory minimum remissions to any charges that they make. However, no student shall be placed at an educational disadvantage because of a parent's unwillingness or inability to contribute. In the case of particular need, remission outside these parameters will be at the absolute discretion of the Principal.

2.4 Liability for personal property

The UTC does not accept liability for any items of personal property lost or damaged in the UTC or its grounds, although in exceptional circumstances a contribution to the replacement of a lost or damaged item may be made at the absolute discretion of the Principal.

3. Management of policy

The Governing Body has ultimate responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy. Day-to-day operational responsibility, including the establishment of a review cycle for this policy, has been delegated to the Principal.

4. Practice and procedures

Organisers of activities should be clear as to whether an activity falls within the parameters for charging or voluntary contributions:

4.1 Activities which are an essential part of the national curriculum, religious education or for an approved examination

Charging

It is not normally possible to charge for these activities.

Where a charge is allowed (see below), it may not exceed the cost that can be apportioned to the student's participation. If the cost of the chargeable element of an activity is expected to exceed the sum of the charges received, then the organiser should ensure funds to balance are available by reference to the Principal. The UTC may make a charge where the law permits it:

- The cost of board and lodging for all residential activities (subject to full remission being given to those students whose parents are receiving Universal Credit, Income Support, support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit providing that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the families income does not exceed £20,000, Personal Independence Payment or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance)
- Activities that take place during lunch breaks
- The services of a non-UTC organisation employed during UTC hours
- Materials used in the production of an article where the student's parent has indicated in advance that he/she wishes the article to be owned by the student, (NB where a parent declines to offer to pay for materials used in the production of an article where otherwise it would be expected that the student's parent would have indicated in advance that he/she wishes the article to be owned by the student then the student shall undertake the exercise but may not be allowed possession of the article on completion)
- Public examinations, only where without good reason a student fails to complete the requirements of the examination (eg coursework) or to attend the examination
- Re-sits at the recommendation of the UTC

Voluntary contributions

These may be asked for, but this must be done in line with the stated objectives of this policy. Organisers of activities may ask for voluntary contributions to cover the costs of:

- Travel, board and lodgings
- Materials, books and equipment
- Teaching costs
- Associated administrative and support staff costs
- Tickets and entrance fees

The organiser is expected to have constructed a balanced budget in advance. When arranging an activity, the voluntary contribution requested may be set to cover the direct cost per student, fixed overhead costs and where appropriate, with an allowance for a contingency. The cost will be divided by the number of students paying for the visit.

When writing to parents the benefit and educational aims of the activity must be described along with any risks associated. A request for voluntary contributions must make it clear that:

- There is no obligation to make a contribution
- No student will be treated differently or not allowed to participate according to whether a contribution has been made
- It may be necessary to cancel an activity if voluntary contributions received are insufficient to meet the costs of the activity

4.2 Activities available to our students that take place outside, or mainly outside, UTC hours that are not an essential part of the national curriculum, religious education or for an approved examination ('extra-curricular activities')

Charging

A charge may be levied in order to support the wide range of additional extra-curricular activities arranged by the UTC. The organisers of activities will normally determine a charge to cover the costs of:

- Travel, board and lodging
- Materials, books and equipment
- Teaching costs
- Associated administrative and support staff costs
- Tickets and entrance fees

For an extra-curricular activity, the charge should be set to cover the direct cost per student, fixed overhead costs and where appropriate, an allowance for a contingency to cater for any reasonable unforeseen shortfall in income or increase in expenditure.

When writing to parents the benefit and aims of the activity must be described along with any risks associated (also cover any policy regarding remissions).

5. Acts of vandalism and negligence

UTC South Durham reserves the right to recover part, or the whole cost, of damage to buildings or equipment which is the result of vandalism or negligence by a student.

6. Transport

Free school transport

Children of compulsory school age qualify for free school transport if they go to their nearest suitable school and any of the following apply:

- the school is more than 2 miles away and the child is under 8
- the school is more than 3 miles away and the child is 8 or over
- there's no safe walking route between their home and school
- they cannot walk there because of their special educational needs or disabilities or a mobility problem

Charging for school transport

UTC South Durham provides transport spanning the North East with the aim of removing the barrier of transport for students who want to access the specialist

education offered at the UTC who would not otherwise be able to attend. This currently relates to 30% of our students.

As these transport costs are not covered by the local authorities the UTC pays for the full costs from their budget allocation at a cost of approximately £1,900 per student. Parents of students who wish to access the UTC transport services are charged approximately £3.89 per day (less than £2 each way) equivalent to approximately £740 in total, payable in 10 instalments across the year.

The cost of the bus is for a seat for the academic year, it is the same price for year 10's, 11's, 12's and 13's as we are unable to sell seats on the bus for the last month after exams have finished. The cost is regardless of location.

Y10 and Y11 pupils entitled to Free School Meals will receive a discounted rate, please contact transport@utcsouthdurham.org for more information.

Y12 and Y13 students may be eligible for financial support through a Bursary payment. The form is available from our website under Financial Support or from the UTC main office.