



Charging & Remissions Policy

	Reviewed:	1/9/9/2025
	Next Review:	Autumn 2027
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1. Introduction

This Charging and Remissions Policy outlines the circumstances under which charges can be made to pupils attending Gowerton School, in compliance with the Education Act 1996 and the Welsh Government's statutory guidance. The school is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, by providing access to free or reduced-cost activities as appropriate.

2. Aims of the Policy

- To clarify what can and cannot be charged for in relation to school activities.
- To ensure that no pupil is excluded from an activity due to their inability to pay.
- To outline the circumstances under which the school can seek voluntary contributions from parents and carers.
- To provide transparency in how charges and remissions are applied.

3. Legislation and Guidance

This policy adheres to:

- The Education Act 1996 (sections 449-462)
- Welsh Government Circular No: 011/2014 - **Charging for School Activities**
- Relevant sections of the School Governors' Handbook (Wales)

4. Activities for Which Charges Can Be Made

Charges may be made for the following activities, where applicable:

1. Board and Lodging

Charges will be made for board and lodging on residential trips, except for pupils eligible for remission (as outlined in Section 6).

2. Materials, Books, and Equipment

A charge may be levied for materials used in practical subjects where the pupil and their parents have indicated that they wish to own the finished product.

3. Optional Extras

Charges can be made for the following optional extras, provided that participation is voluntary:

- Activities that take place outside school hours, not essential to the curriculum.
- Transport to activities that are not part of the national curriculum or statutory requirements.

4. Examination Fees

Charges can be applied if a pupil fails to complete an examination requirement without good reason or if a pupil wishes to re-sit an examination.

5. Music and Vocal Tuition

Charges may be made for individual or small-group tuition in playing a musical instrument or for vocal coaching, except where the tuition is part of the curriculum or a prescribed public examination.

5. Voluntary Contributions

The school may ask for voluntary contributions from parents or carers to fund certain activities. These contributions will be entirely voluntary, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to contribute.

If insufficient voluntary contributions are received, the school reserves the right to cancel the activity.

6. Remissions

Pupils eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) or whose families are in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to the remission of charges for:

- Board and lodging costs on residential visits linked to the curriculum.
- Charges for curriculum-related activities that incur costs, e.g., theatre visits, educational trips.

Families are encouraged to contact the school if they require assistance in identifying whether they qualify for any support.

7. Refunds

Where a pupil is unable to attend a pre-paid activity, refunds will be made at the discretion of the Headteacher, taking into account any non-recoverable costs incurred by the school.

8. Communication of the Policy

The Charging and Remissions Policy will be available on the school website and information about potential costs will also be included in communications regarding individual trips and activities.

9. Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually, ensuring that it remains compliant with current legislation and reflects the school's commitment to equal opportunities.