



**Amber Valley
& Erewash
Support Centre**

Charging Policy

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current guidance.

Written by:	Tom England	Date: 09/2019
Last reviewed on by:	27/11/2020 – Janine Dix	
Next review due by:	11/2021	
Approved by:	Local Governing Body	
Version:	2	

1 Introduction

1.1 All education to pupils during academy hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the curriculum offer.

2 Voluntary contributions

2.1 When organising academy educational visits or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, AVESC invites parents to contribute to the cost of the educational visit. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel an educational visit. If an educational visit goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

2.2 If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school educational visit or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the educational visit or activity as long as parental consent has been given. Sometimes the academy pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each educational visit is funded. The academy provides this information on request. The following statement will be included in all letters where parents are asked for a voluntary contribution:

For certain types of educational activity during the academy day (e.g. class visits, educational visits and outings), parents may be asked for a voluntary contribution in advance towards the per capita child cost. However, no child will be placed at a disadvantage because of a parent's unwillingness or inability to pay. If, however, as a direct consequence of a number of parents not paying and the voluntary contributions received do not meet a level necessary to cover the costs of that activity or event, it will be cancelled and all monies returned. In circumstances of genuine financial hardship, the Headteacher will, in confidence, try to find ways of reducing the burden if approached by the parents. Please let us know if we can help.

2.3 The following is a list of additional activities organised by the academy, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- educational visits abroad;

- musical events.

3 Extra-curricular Activities

3.1 The academy offers a range of extra-curricular activities. Where activities are run by outside agencies, a small charge may be made to parents.

4. Charging in Kind

4.1 The cost of ingredients, materials, equipment etc needed for practical subjects such as food technology or DT is budgeted for and borne by the academy. However, the academy may charge for or require the supply of ingredients and material if the product is to be owned and taken home by the child afterwards e.g. food products, models containing electrical equipment or batteries. AVESC will inform parents prior to activities, giving them the choice to pay for materials or purchase their own materials for the activity.

5. Breakages and Fines

5.1 The academy reserves the right to ask parents to pay for the cost of replacing any item such as:

- Broken windows
- Defaced, damaged or lost books
- Replacement reading or homework diaries
- Any item damaged as a result of unsatisfactory pupil behaviour

6. Special Needs

6.1 The Governing Body confirm that no pupil with special needs or disabilities will be treated any differently than any other pupil. The school will take all reasonable steps to avoid putting children with special needs at a disadvantage.