**DONCASTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

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Charging and Remissions Policy

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| Policy: Charging and remissions Policy |
| Author: Jane Goodman |
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# Statement of intent

Doncaster School For the Deaf is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils, regardless of financial circumstances and have created this policy to ensure we adhere to legal requirements regarding charging for school activities and meet all statutory guidance provided by the DfE.

The school will ensure that this policy is published on its website and provides the school community with details of activities for which the school will charge parents, and the circumstances in which they will waive any charge parents would otherwise expect to pay.

# Legal framework

This policy will have consideration for, and be compliant with, the following legislation and statutory guidance:

* Education Act 1996
* The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007
* The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010
* DfE (2018) ‘Charging for school activities’

**Charging for education**

We will not charge parents for:

* Admission applications.
* Education provided during school hours.
* Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education.
* Entry for a prescribed public examination
* Examination re-sits

We may charge parents for the following:

* Parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards activities that take place outside school hours or residential visits.

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, practical activities, trips and residential experiences can make towards pupils’ personal and social education. The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities without charge.

# Voluntary contributions

We may, from time-to-time, ask for voluntary contributions towards the benefit of the school or school activities. If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, we will make this clear to parents at the outset. We will also make it clear that there is no obligation for parents to make a contribution, and notify parents whether assistance is available.

No child will be excluded from an activity simply because their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will still be given an equal opportunity to take part in the activity. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund an activity, and the school cannot fund it via another source, the activity will be cancelled.

We will strive to ensure that parents do not feel pressurised into making voluntary contributions.

# Damaged or lost items

The school may charge parents for the cost of replacing items broken, damaged or lost due to their child’s behaviour. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

# Remissions

We have set aside a small fund to enable families in financial difficulty to send their children on visits/activities. If the full cost of the trip/activity cannot be met through assistance funding and voluntary contributions, the trip/activity will be cancelled.

Parents in receipt of any of the following benefits may request assistance with the costs of activities:

* Income Support
* Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
* Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
* Child Tax Credit, provided that they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and they have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
* Working Tax Credit run on – paid for four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
* Universal Credit – if they apply on or after 1 April 2018, their household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits they receive)

To request assistance, parents should contact the school bursar

**Approved**

The Charging and Remissions Policy was approved by the Governing Body.

This policy is subject to review as part of the school’s Self-Evaluation and Self-Review cycle.