



The Robert Carre Trust

Charging and Remissions Policy

General

The general principle that no charge can be made for education in school hours (excluding the midday break) in schools is set out in the Education Act 1996.

In accordance with the above, the Robert Carre Trust will make no compulsory charge for any books, materials, instruments, equipment or transport for use in connection with education if the education is:

- within school hours;
- for the National Curriculum programme out of school hours;
- for statutory religious education; and
- for a prescribed public examination prepared for by the school.

Examinations

No charge can be made for entry to a public examination on the Secretary of State's prescribed list except where the student, without good reason, fails to attend or meet the requirements of the examination. In the case of students in schools which are members of the Robert Carre Trust this includes failing to submit coursework or attend sessions for good reason.

Students will be charged for re-sitting examinations at GCSE and A Level and also for any re-marking requests. Should an improvement in grade be achieved, the re-marking fee will be returned to the student.

Admission

No charge can be made in connection with admission to schools which are members of the Robert Carre Trust. There is, however, a small charge of £25 for the 11+ practice tests, but this is refunded if/when the child joins the school.

Board and Lodging

A charge will be made for board and lodging on residential educational visits/activities, but parents will be advised of this beforehand and those who qualify for prescribed benefits and allowances are entitled to a remission of the charges.

Parents in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and that the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190;
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit; and
- And income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

Further information about the Trust's policy on charging for educational visits can be found in our Educational Visits Policy.

Transport

Transport to and from home to any activity not provided by, but permitted by, schools which are members of the Robert Carre Trust or the Local Authority, can be charged for (the main example is work experience). The Trust will not charge for:-

- Transporting registered students to or from the school premises, where the Local Authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- Transporting registered students to other premises where the Trustees of The Robert Carre Trust, the school's Local Governing Body or the Local Authority has arranged for students to be educated;
- Transport that enables a student to meet an examination requirement when he/she has been prepared for that examination at a school in the Trust;
- In the case of a Trust/School-owned Minibus or other vehicle, only students on the roll of the Trust/School, their parents/guardians or staff may be charged for this form of transport. Funds will not be raised by the Trust/School to create a profit although charges may be made to recover some or all of the running costs and depreciation of the vehicle.

Voluntary Contributions

Parents may volunteer to pay for any educational activity, and the Robert Carre Trust will request voluntary contributions for any visits/activities both inside and outside school time. However, NO student will be excluded from the activity for not having paid the contribution.

The Robert Carre Trust uses the payment system, ParentPay, which does incur costs for the Trust and there will be a small charge of approximately 2% added to the cost of each trip to cover this.

Permitted Charges/Optional Extras

The following are permitted charges:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of the National Curriculum;
- Charges for board and lodging on trips – exceptions detailed in Board and Lodging section above;
- Costs of lost and destroyed Trust/school property and breakages;
- Any costs associated with individual tuition in the playing of musical instruments whether in or out of school hours (UNLESS it is provided as part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination or is required by the National Curriculum);
- Finished Products - where parents have expressed a wish in advance to have a finished product made at school, a charge will be made at cost price. The parents will be informed of the likely charge for the product in advance;
- The cost of optional extras provided outside school hours (or mainly outside school hours), but the charge will not exceed the cost of the provision, and parents must agree to their child receiving the optional extra;
- The cost of entering a student for a public examination not prescribed in regulations, and the cost for preparing the student for such an examination out of school hours; and
- Re-sits of prescribed public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the Trust.

In calculating the cost of the above, an amount may be included in relation to:-

- Materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra;
- Support staff;

- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide that optional extra; and
- The cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where tuition is an optional extra.

In all cases where a permitted charge is likely to be made the parents will be told the amount in advance.

Education/Activities partly during School Hours

Where an activity takes place partly during school hours and partly outside normal school hours, there is a basis for determining whether it is deemed to take place either inside or outside school hours. However, a charge will only be made for the activity outside school hours if it is not part of the National Curriculum, not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the students is being prepared for at the school and not part of religious education.

In order to determine whether an activity that is undertaken partly during school hours and partly out of school hours the 50% rule is applied:

Non-Residential Activities: if 50% or more is spent on an activity in school time (including travelling time, but excluding midday breaks) the whole activity is deemed to be inside school time, and will not be charged for; and

Residential Activities: the number of half-days are counted (a half-day being any 12 hour period ending noon or midnight). If the number of days and half-days spent on the activity is greater than the number of school sessions (morning and afternoon sessions) that a student would spend on a normal school day, the activity is deemed to take place outside school hours, and vice-versa. Travelling time is included in the time spent on the activity.

When a departure or return time splits a half-day then all the half-day counts if more than 50% of the half-day is used for the activity.

Third parties

On occasion, the Trust uses third parties to provide some educational activities (especially educational visits). We will ensure that the monies are paid directly to the third party organisation.

In such cases if the activity is in school time the school formally grants leave of absence to the students taking part, as the activity would no longer technically be part of the school's official programme.

Monitoring and Review

The Executive Headteacher / Director of Finance, Administration and Resources will review the working of the policy with the appropriate Trustee committee annually in March.

Reviewed at the meeting of the Finance, Resources and Audit Committee 2 February 2021

Approved at the meeting of the Board on 24 February 2021

Next Review Date: March 2022 (annually)