



Charging and Remission Policy

We monitor the impact of all policies on pupils, staff, parents and trustees with particular reference to the impact on the progress and wellbeing of pupils. As a community school we believe that our policy should reflect our ethos, which calls us to strive for 'excellence through endeavour'.

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1. School Vision

All trustees and staff will strive to ensure that all pupils are valued as individuals, are recognised for their talents, fully included within the school community and provided with every opportunity to achieve 'excellence'. We expect all pupils to emerge as confident and resilient individuals who can build positive relationships and demonstrate commitment in everything they do.

Pupils at RTS will:

- Be confident and happy individuals who can build positive relationships with others and work purposefully towards achieving their very best at all times.
- Possess the knowledge, communication and technical skills necessary for success as they move into further education and the workplace.
- Have the motivation to work independently and conscientiously to achieve qualifications that reflect their full ability.
- Become lifelong learners with an insatiable curiosity about the world around them and a shared responsibility for their peers, the environment, and wider society.

2. Policy Statement

During the school day, all activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, plus religious education will be provided free of charge.

Voluntary contributions, however, will be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs. For example, external teachers coming into the school and visits by pupils outside of the school. No student will be prevented from participating in any activity offered because their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay. If, however, insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund an activity or visit, it might not be possible for the activity/trip to take place.

3. Purpose of the policy

The policy is intended to ensure that:

- a) the educational opportunities offered wholly or mainly during school hours are available to all students regardless of ability or willingness to pay.
- b) occasions when charges are made or voluntary contributions requested are within the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act and Circular 2/89.

4. Charging practices

4.1. For visits and activities wholly or mainly during school hours

There will be no compulsory charge for visits and activities during school hours. However, parents/carers will be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost. The school's arrangements for visits and activities mainly or wholly during school hours will be subject to sufficient funds being available from voluntary contributions to cover their costs.

Where insufficient funds are collected to cover the costs of the visit, the school may cancel the visit and return all the contributions made.

Where contributions are in excess of the required sum for a particular visit, the school may decide to use the surplus funds to support other visits and will advise the parents/carers accordingly. However, if there is a surplus of £15 or more per student, contributing parents/carers will be offered a refund.

4.2. Visits and activities mainly outside school hours

Where a visit or activity is mainly outside school hours, parents/carers are liable for the whole cost. Financial assistance will not normally be available for visits and activities which take place mainly outside school hours. The cost to parents/carers will not exceed the actual costs incurred, and if there is a surplus the money will be refunded equally between contributors.

4.3. Music Tuition

The Richmond upon Thames School follows government legislation that states that all education provided during school hours must be free; however, music lessons are an exception to this rule.

Charges will be made for instrumental tuition when the service is provided by a peripatetic music teacher. Payment for this service is paid directly to Richmond Music Trust and some financial assistance is available. Details of these lessons are available from the music department and on the school's website. There is no charge for music tuition for children in Local Authority Care. This includes instrument hire, music books and exam fees.

4.4. Financial Assistance / Remission

Families may qualify for remission or help with charges if they are in receipt of:

- Income Support (IS)
- income-based Jobseekers 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 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
- Working Tax credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax credit
- Universal Credit

Parents can request assistance from the school for help with some costs in the following circumstances:

- specific individual circumstances that have caused temporary hardship or
- recently moved into hardship but not yet receiving the benefits.

Remission is at the Head Teacher's discretion in these circumstances based on any evidence provided.

5. Pupil Premium Statement

The school has an annual Pupil Premium statement which is available on the school website.

6. Books, learning materials and equipment

6.1. Classroom learning materials

The school provides most of the books, equipment and instructions required during the school day to follow the school's curriculum. Parents/carers will be asked to provide students with some basic equipment for their own personal use at school and at home. This includes pens, pencils, a ruler, an eraser, a rough workbook, a calculator and a dictionary.

Students may be asked to buy some of their textbooks for accredited courses (e.g. GCSEs).

6.2. Materials for practical lessons

In many practical lessons, students make items that they want to take home to keep. In these cases, the cost of materials will be indicated to parents/carers in advance so that they may inform the school whether or not they wish to purchase the finished articles. Parents/carers are expected to provide ingredients for Food Technology. In exceptional circumstances, basic ingredients will be provided by the school so that no student is excluded from the planned curriculum.

In some subjects, students may want resources which are above the minimum required for the lesson in which case students may purchase these from the school.

7. Examination expenses

In almost all cases the school makes no charge for examination entries. Parents/carers may be asked to pay a fee for an examination where,

- a) the student is absent from the examination without a Doctor's certificate.
- b) parents/carers request a re-marking which is not supported by the school.
- c) the exam relates to subjects not offered within the curriculum
- d) Additional entries for specialist university courses
- e) Private entries

8. Optional Extras

The school will make a charge for optional extra activities:

- a) that are neither part of the curriculum,
- b) nor part of an examination syllabus.

If these activities are provided offsite and are provided during the school day, pupils who do not wish to take part in these activities, for whatever reason, will be offered a suitable alternative in school.

9. E-Learning Scheme

The school operates an e-learning scheme where students have access to a one-to-one device. The scheme is fully embedded within lessons across the school. Students use their devices within lessons to facilitate

their learning, but they also provide a valuable independent learning tool for extended work outside the lesson, including the completion of homework where appropriate.

9.1 iPads

Parents have the option to enter into a three-year agreement for the provision of an iPad at the start of Year 7. This option is offered through the company CPU. [Information](#) is provided by the school annually in August to enable parents to access the CPU website portal.

If a student leaves in-year, they must cancel their direct debit to CPU and return the iPad, case and charger to the school.

iPads - 2017-18 Cohort (Founding year group)

The school owns 2017-18 cohort iPads issued between September 2017 and July 2018. This includes the device, portable keyboard (where relevant), charger and case issued to the student. Parents/carers will be asked to pay for any iPad and school-issued portable keyboard, charger or case if it is lost, damaged or defaced by their child.

If an iPad is lost or damaged beyond repair, parents have the option to enter into a three-year¹ agreement for the provision of a new iPad. This option is offered through the company CPU.

If an iPad is damaged and the damage is repairable, parents will be invoiced for the cost of the repair and payment will be collected via WisePay.

If a school-issued portable keyboard, charger or case is lost or damaged beyond repair, parents will be invoiced for the cost of a replacement and payment will be collected via WisePay.

In-Year Admission to 2017-18 Cohort

Parents have the option to enter into a three-year agreement² for the provision of an iPad when they enrol at the school. This option is offered through the company CPU. This [Information](#) will be provided by the school when enrolling to enable parents to access the CPU website portal.

10. Loss and damage

Parents/carers will be asked to pay for items of school property or the property of other people in the school which their child has lost or damaged, including window breakage and graffiti removal.

11. Calculating Charges

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay, to support those who cannot pay or choose not to pay.

Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions, Pupil Premium if appropriate, and fundraising.

¹ The term of the agreement will be review on before the 2017-2018 cohort enter Year 10 (in the academic Year 2019-2020).

² The term of the agreement will be review on before the 2017-2018 cohort enter Year 10 (in the academic Year 2019-2020).

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

Appendices

Letter 1 - Damage to iPad

Address

Dear **Parent name**

Damaged iPad screen

Looking after the iPads is the responsibility of each student and, as such, when a screen is broken the cost of repair needs to be borne by the student. We have used our scale to negotiate a good rate locally to have damaged screens replaced at a cost of £40.

Before we proceed with repairing the broken screen in **student's** iPad, we would like to offer you the opportunity to find a cheaper repair for yourself.

If you would like us to go ahead, please **pay the amount via WisePay**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Letter 2 - Damage to school building

Address

Dear Parent/Carer

It is with regret that I am writing to inform you that your child **has scratched his initials into a section of the school**. The incident occurred **on Friday 2 February at the end of lunch**. Please see attached **photograph of the graffiti**. The school regards this action as vandalism.

The delay in contacting you regarding this matter is due to the school seeking a quote to rectify the damage. The **quote that we have received stands at £150 excluding VAT**.

We would appreciate a contribution towards the cost of the repair as school funds are currently directed to the learning and progress of the students.

We welcome your support on this matter and ask you to discuss this with your child. Please do contact me to discuss the contribution that you are able to make.

Yours sincerely,