

WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

CHARGING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The current policy adopted by the Governing Body is set out below.

1. The Wirral Education Authority endorses the principles that education provided in maintained schools should be free and that no student's education should be affected by his or her parent's unwillingness or inability to pay or to contribute towards the cost of the student's education.
2. Students should not be required to pay for any materials, books, instruments or other equipment for use in connection with education provided during school hours; but schools may charge for or require the supply of ingredients or materials for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product.
3. No charge shall be made by the LEA or by any governing body for any activity taking place in school time, but charges may be made to cover the costs of board and lodging on residential trips. No charge shall be made for board and lodging if the student's parents are in receipt of Income Support or Family Credit for any part of the period when the activity takes place.
4. No charge shall be made by the LEA or by any governing body in respect of staff or material costs at the PGL weekend at Boreatton Park. No charge shall be made for travel to and from Boreatton Park if the visit takes place during school hours, but a charge may be made for travel at the discretion of the governing body if the visit is an "optional extra". A charge shall be made for board and lodging at Boreatton Park, but the charge shall be remitted if the student's parents are in receipt of Income Support or Family Credit when the visit takes place.
5. i) No charge shall be made for entry fees for prescribed public examinations which registered students have been prepared at school. However, charges will be made in the following circumstances:
 - a) for examinations for which the student has not been prepared at school;
 - b) for examinations which are not prescribed;
 - c) where the preparation provided by the school enables a student to enter for two or more examinations, the parents shall be charged for the cost of sitting the second and subsequent examinations; where fees vary, the parent shall be charged for the higher fees;
 - d) if a student fails without good reason to complete all the examination requirements and is consequently ungraded in the examination.ii) There shall be no remission of any charges levied in accordance with clauses (a) to (d) of paragraph 5 (i).
6. In respect of activities defined as "optional extras" under the terms of the Education Reform Act 1988, charges may be made by the governors to cover the cost of board and lodging, travel, materials, books or other equipment, entrance fees, teaching and non-teaching staff and other costs attributable to the provision of the activity.
7. In respect of travelling costs arising out of work experience placements, parents may be asked to meet those expenses and governing bodies should decide whether, and in what circumstances, to remit them.
8. The amount of charge permitted by the Education Reform Act 1988 and the decision whether to remit any such charge shall be determined by the governors where the cost of provision of the optional extra or the board and lodging is met by or from funds at the disposal of the governors and in any other case by the LEA.
9. Where charges, for example, for board and lodging, are to be remitted, the costs will be borne out of school funds.
10. Voluntary contributions may be requested for School trips of a day or less. If such trips do take place, a student should not be excluded because of the inability or unwillingness of a parent to make a contribution.