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## *Charging Policy*

The policy of the Governors of The Grey Coat Hospital on charging for school activities is in line with the Education Reform Act:

The Governors seek to continue existing practices as far as possible and are anxious to ensure that the quality of education provided and equality of opportunity are maintained and enhanced at The Grey Coat Hospital.

1. Parents cannot be charged for school visits which take place wholly within school time or are for the purpose of the National Curriculum or prescribed public examinations. Parents will be asked for a voluntary contribution for part, all or more than the cost per pupil. Parents need to know that they are under no obligation to contribute and if they decide not to do so, their child will not be treated differently from those whose parents do contribute. Parents may always exclude their child from a trip if they so wish and thereby avoid all costs. The school will inform parents that the visits may be cancelled if there is insufficient financial support.
2. As a statutory minimum, the remission of charges for board and lodging is required for pupils whose parents are in receipt of Income Support (IS) or Family Credit (FC) and where the activity is deemed to take place in school hours.
3. Parents on Widowed Mothers' Allowance or Invalidity Benefit may also receive remission of charges from the Governors now but this is beyond the requirement of the Act, and they may be charged the full cost of board and lodgings and asked for a voluntary contribution for the rest.
4. It is permissible to charge parents for all board and lodging costs for school journeys undertaken in school time with the exception of those parents mentioned above where the Governors and the school may assist parents with the costs.
5. Trips taken out of school hours in holidays or at weekends are deemed 'optional extras' and participation is based on parents' choice and their willingness to meet such charges as are made. The full cost of the trip should be made clear to parents. The Governors or the school may assist families in certain situations.
6. Charges will be made when and where appropriate for individual music tuition (including vocal tuition), for the cost of the staff, the sheet music and the hire and insurance of musical instruments.

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7. The Governors will charge candidates who default from examinations for which they have been entered. Also parents will be charged for a rechecking of the results of a prescribed public examination when requested by the parent. Parents will be charged for entry fees for prescribed public examinations where the pupil is not prepared by the school.
  8. The school will refund any excess costs over normal daily travel for travelling to work experience, if so requested by parents.
  9. It is at the Headteacher's discretion whether a parent will be asked for a contribution towards the cost of damaged, or lost equipment caused by a pupil's behaviour.