



Burnside College

Charging Policy

2025

Reviewed by HP - June 2025
Ratified by Governors - June 2025

At Burnside we respect all members of our community in light of their individual differences and are keen to ensure that any differences do not impact upon students' achievements. Therefore all learning activities should be available to all students equally regardless of their home circumstances. We therefore wish to limit charges to the minimum, within the constraints of funding available to support activities. Some activities, though not free, are always well planned with value for money in mind and often considerably cheaper than by other means. These activities are valuable learning experiences and help students develop as people as well as learners. In addition, we are committed to ensuring that all parents/carers are given adequate notice so that they can budget for more expensive trips and pay in affordable instalments. The kind of activities offered are detailed below, including details regarding charging:

A. Residential courses in school time.

Parents/Carers will be asked to meet the full cost of board and lodging and to make a voluntary contribution towards travel expenses, except children whose Parents/Carers receive income support/income based jobseeker's allowance, where the school will do its best to offer assistance in any case where there is hardship, through application to the school fund or Pupil premium funding.

B. Activities outside school hours not within the National Curriculum.

These could be ranging from holiday visits abroad to school sporting fixtures. Parents/Carers may be asked to meet the full cost. In the case of residential experiences every effort would be made to offer value for money but the cost may be quite high (and can be subject to slight changes due to changes in student numbers or exchange rates). It is intended that school based extra-curricular activities should be free. The school fund may be able to support towards costs upon careful consideration.

C. Individual music tuition

Where available without charge to the School, there will be no charge to Parents/Carers. Where tuition is available only at a cost to the school, a charge may be made to students who have lessons. Any tuition charges to students eligible for FSM or Pupil Premium will be covered by the school. However this is limited to 1 hour per week and may have to be cancelled if there is low engagement and/or attendance. Additional funding would require an application to the school fund.

D. Extra examination entries/resits without tuition

Charge would be made to parents / carers / students if not recommended by teaching staff.

E. 'Wasted' exam entries

As in D above.

F. Ingredients/materials for practical subjects

Parents/Carers are not required to pay for materials (e.g. food for food technology lessons) where the finished article is kept by the students (unlike many other schools), and the school will use pupil premium funding to make provision in the case of difficulty at KS5.

G. Lost school equipment, books etc.

As we provide school bags and all equipment is provided at the start of the year, parents/carers will be expected to meet some or all of the replacement costs unless the items are recognised as faulty. All loss due to wear will not be covered. Loss of materials loaned to sixth form students may be charged.

H. Deliberate breakages or damage to school buildings, furniture or property

If there are repeated instances of deliberate damage parents may be requested to support with costs.

I. Deliberate Loss/Damage to a student's property

The school will not seek to reimburse students who have suffered at the hands of another one of our students. In addition we cannot replace or provide funds to replace lost items that are more costly than those recommended in our uniform policy. We have uniform and behaviour policies in place that reduce the risk of expensive items being brought onto site for this reason.

Any loss is a parental issue but the behaviour policy will be consistently applied to ensure these incidents are prevented and kept to a minimum. We will use the school behaviour policy if students are not showing pride and respect towards others and their property. Parents are within their rights to report incidents of theft or criminal damage to the police.

In addition, the school will not seek to reimburse parents should a students' property or clothing become damaged whilst in an unsupervised / not permitted area of the school site.