



Defence  
Children  
Services

# DCS Directive 3.1.5

## Charging for School Activities

DCS July 26 v4.0

## General

|                                 |                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Authorisation</b>            | Head DCS                                                                             |
| <b>Senior Responsible Owner</b> | AH Educ-Stand PD                                                                     |
| <b>Point of Contact</b>         | PolRA                                                                                |
| <b>Review Date</b>              | July 2029                                                                            |
| <b>Related Policy/Guidance</b>  | Department for Education (DfE) Charging for School Activities 2018                   |
|                                 | DfE Early Education and Childcare 2026                                               |
|                                 | JSP 342: Education of Service Children and Young People.                             |
|                                 | Joint Service Publication (JSP) 462: Charging and Financial Management Policy Manual |
|                                 | Joint Service Publication (JSP) 800: Defence Movements and Transport Policy          |

## Introduction

1. DCS schools and settings overseas mirror, where reasonably practicable, Department for Education (DfE) statutory direction and guidance for charging and remissions and Defence policy contained in JSP 462.
2. The following principle applies to charging for school/setting activities and the use of public funds:
  - a. No child should be excluded from an activity on the grounds of cost.
  - b. Activities conducted within the school premises, delivering and directly supporting the delivery of the school Curriculum are considered core business and are fully funded by public funds.

## Aim

3. This Policy Directive<sup>1</sup> provides direction to DCS schools and settings overseas on the activities that a school/setting may charge for.

## Scope

4. This Policy Directive applies to all DCS schools and settings overseas with regards to activities outside the core education curriculum delivered by DCS schools and settings.

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<sup>1</sup> Consideration has been given as to whether this Policy Directive complies with the Public Sector Equality Duty, and it has been concluded that the duty has been complied with.

Education in DCS schools and settings is funded for entitled Defence personnel, and non-entitled parents are charged for their children's education, in accordance with JSP 342.

5. The Queen Victoria School (Dunblane) will follow Scottish National statutory guidance for charging and remissions, the School's Constitution and Royal Warrant and this Policy Directive where it is complementary.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

6. Head teachers and Setting Managers are responsible for applying the direction laid out in this document.

## **Education**

7. **DCS schools cannot charge for the following:**

- a. The admission application;
- b. Education provided during school hours<sup>2</sup>;
- c. The supply of any materials, books, instruments or other educational equipment used in the provision of education during school hours;
- d. Education provided outside of school hours where it is part of the national curriculum<sup>3</sup> or is part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or part of religious education;
- e. Instrumental or vocal tuition for pupils learning individually or in groups unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent;
- f. Entry for a prescribed public examination where the pupil is being prepared for it at the school and;
- g. Examination re-sit(s) where the pupil is being prepared for the resit(s) at the school<sup>4</sup>

8. **DCS early years/childcare settings cannot charge for:**

- a. Provision that is delivered in accordance with current MOD and Government guidance relating to free early years childcare entitlement.
- b. The supply of any materials, books, instruments or other educational equipment used in the provision of education during school hours;

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<sup>2</sup> 'school hours' for example, the timings of a standard school day e.g. 8:30am to 3:30pm.

<sup>3</sup> 'part of the national curriculum' is not restricted to learning outside the classroom experiences that are specifically subject based and may include activities designed to fulfill requirements under the national curriculum 'inclusion statement'.

<sup>4</sup> In circumstances where the pupil fails without good reason to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus, the fee can be recovered from the pupil's parents.

c. Instrumental or vocal tuition for pupils learning individually or in groups unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent;

**9. DCS schools and settings will levy a charge for:**

a. Extended day care services offered to pupils.

b. Any provision (extended day care) that is delivered outside of the current free entitlement to early years and childcare provision.

## **Optional Extras**

10. DCS schools can charge for activities that are known as optional extras. Where these activities are being provided, a charge can be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment and associated costs. DCS settings can charge for optional extras as detailed in this directive, where they are applicable to early years. Optional extras are:

a. Activities which are not part of the National Curriculum. This includes; adventurous training and skiing;

b. Preparing students for non-prescribed public examinations where the preparation takes place outside school hours<sup>5</sup>;

c. Examination entry fee(s) where the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;

d. Transport for activities that are not required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the MOD have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education (for example, transport required to deliver the national curriculum or a part of the syllabus leading to a prescribed public examination that pupils are being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education) All transport is to be arranged in accordance with JSP 800;

e. Board and Lodging for a pupil on a residential visit;

f. Costs of materials, ingredients, equipment when parents have indicated in advance that they wish to own the finished product. This will apply in particular to Food Technology/Textiles, Design Technology, Construction, Art/Ceramics and Photography but may in special circumstances apply to other subjects;

g. Parents may be asked to meet the costs of breakages, damage or loss resulting from a pupil's negligence;

h. Community facilities<sup>6</sup>;

i. Music and vocal tuition where the tuition is at the request of the pupil's parent and is not an essential part of the national curriculum or provided under the first access to

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<sup>5</sup> For example, the use of school facilities, school grounds or staff.

<sup>6</sup> The powers to provide community facilities are under s27(1) of the Education Act.

the key stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme. Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision including cost of staff providing the tuition;

11. In calculating the cost of optional extras, DCS schools may include an amount in relation to:
- j. **Non-teacher Costs.** In cases where non-teaching MOD staff are involved in support activities, outside their normal duties (for example supervision of out-of-hours activity, e.g. day or residential trips), the MOD reserves the right to charge a suitable levy;
  - k. **Teacher Costs.** In cases where teaching staff are engaged under contracts for services purely to provide as an optional extra (for example residential trips, overseas trips that include travel and subsidy), this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra;
  - l. **Books on Loan.** Non-return of books (library or curriculum): lost books will be charged at the full replacement costs;
  - m. **Materials and Equipment.** Any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the student's parent wishes them to own them;
  - n. **Clothing.** All school uniform, shoes, sports kit and protective apron and/or goggles at cost if provided by the school;
  - o. **Representative Activities.** There may be a charge when a pupil represents the school in an organised activity (e.g. as a member of a school team). Any charge will be at the school's discretion, but will not be greater than the total cost of the activity (including transport), divided between the number of pupils taking part;
  - p. **Work Experience.** In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, the MOD expects that the travel costs from home to place of work are met by parents when students are on work experience placements.
  - q. **Extended Day Services.** Extended day services offered to students (for example breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

## Extended Day Care

12. Extended Day Care (EDC) is a means of the MOD offering parents the equivalent to English nursery provision overseas, this provision runs on a self-funding basis and can only be provided where it is financially viable to do so. It is currently being offered in most MOD Schools. As per current English legislation, entitled parents can send their 3 to 4-year-old children to a DCS Schools nursery setting for 3 hours a day / 15 hours a week free of charge, but any additional hours accessed after that are chargeable. The 2016 Childcare Act provides for an extension of the current entitlement and offers an additional 15 hrs per week for 38 weeks of the year of free childcare for children that are eligible, with effect from 1 September 2017.

13. EDC provision is run on a capacity basis only. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis. DCS reserves the right to close a Foundation Stage 1 school or setting at any time, and will provide as much notice as possible. A proportionate amount of the fees may be refunded. This includes situations such as an infectious disease outbreak or school closure of

five or more consecutive school days. Guidance for fees and payment of EDC can be found at **Annex A**. The EDC pupil admissions registration form is attached at **Annex B**.

## Transport

14. Parents of children who are attending on a non-entitled, fee-paying basis will need to be made aware of the charges associated with transport on Military Transport (Road and Air) where their children are taking part in a residential visit to meet National Curriculum requirements. Payment for flights on Military Air Transport will be required at the point of departure and collected by the school as part of the trip costs. For further information please refer to JSP 800:

15. Charges are not to be made for transport costs that:

- a. Enable a pupil to meet the requirements of the curriculum, or a syllabus or a prescribed public examination. This includes essential travel costs to the United Kingdom border where it is specifically to fulfil explicit requirements of the curriculum and where curriculum requirements cannot be met in location, or a syllabus of a prescribed public examination.
- b. Are provided in connection with an educational visit.

## Voluntary contributions

16. Parents and carers may be asked to make voluntary contributions to fund certain activities wholly or partly in school time, which would be otherwise prohibited. The following conditions will apply:

- a. The amount requested is not to be greater than the total cost of the trip divided between the number of pupils taking part;
- b. There will be no obligation to contribute. If sufficient contributions in order to cover the required costs are received all children will take part in the specified activity. If sufficient contributions are not received, then the activity may not be able to run;
- c. An initial letter will be sent to parents, outlining the activity and costs;
- d. Parents are to be informed that the trip/activity will not proceed if not fully funded by the total of any subsidy and parental contributions;
- e. If parental contributions exceed the final cost of the trip, refunds of the excess are to be offered to parents for each pupil;
- f. The membership of the group is to be determined before contributions are invited subject, if necessary, to oversubscription criteria as specified in the trip letter to parents;
- g. Pupils will not be treated differently if parents do not contribute;
- h. Contributions will cover the costs of supervision.

## Remissions

17. Where a school or setting is considering remitting (wholly or partly) any charge which would otherwise be payable in accordance with this Directive, remittance must be made in accordance with JSP 462. In particular, schools and settings are required to follow the MOD's policy on subsidising. Advice and guidance on remissions should be sought from DCS HQ AH Schools Interface Services.

## Activities partly during school hours

18. Where an activity continues past school hours, schools will need to determine whether the activity is deemed to take place either inside or outside school hours. A charge can only be made for the activity outside school hours if it is:

- a. Not part of the national curriculum;
- b. Not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school;
- c. Not part of religious education.

## Non-residential visits

19. Where 50% or more of the activity is during school hours, it is deemed to take place during school hours. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day. No charges may be made for the visit; either activities or transport.

20. Where less than 50% of the activity is during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours. For example, an excursion might require pupils to leave school an hour before the school day ends, but the activity does not end until late in the evening. The full cost of the visit may be charged.

## Residential visits

21. Where the number of sessions taken up by the visit is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half days spent on the visit, it is deemed to have taken place during school hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening). A 'half day' means any period of 12 hours ending with midday or midnight on any day. For example:

- a. pupils are away from midday on Wednesday to 9pm on Sunday – this will count as 9 half days, so the visit is deemed to have taken place during school hours;
- b. pupils are away from midday on Thursday until 9pm on Sunday – this will count as 7 half days, so the visit is deemed to have taken place outside of school hours.

22. Charges cannot be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

23. Charges can be made for board and lodging; the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

## **Fees and Payment for EDC**

1. In order to provide sustainable EDC for your child, fees are charged for each session the child is registered to attend. To facilitate this in the most efficient manner and in an order that embarrassment can be avoided on both sides, parents and carers are requested to note the following regulations that relate to payment of EDC fees:

- a. Fees are reviewed regularly;
- b. Parents and carers will ordinarily receive one invoice each month. Credits for non-attendance of booked sessions will not be issued;
- c. Payment for EDC provision is paid in advance. A detailed invoice will be raised and sent out for payment to be made;
- d. Payment is due by the first working day of the month to which the invoice relates. Repeated failure to pay invoices within the required time frame will result in your child being unable to attend the setting;
- e. Your child's place is retained during periods of absence whether through illness or holiday and will be charged at the standard rate;
- f. Parents and carers are required to provide 4 weeks notice, in writing of any increases or decreases of sessions for their child. Failure to give notice of a decrease in sessions will result in charges for childcare. Any increases that can be accommodated will be charged with on the next months invoice;
- g. Parents and carers are required to provide 4 weeks notice in writing when their child's place is no longer required. Failure to give notice will result in charges;
- h. DCS aim to give one month notice in writing of any changes in childcare fees;
- i. DCS will recover any amounts overdue for payment; for Service personnel action will be taken to recover the money by 2 months direct from the parent's salary via JPA at the standard recovery rate (which is 4 days gross pay);

2. The settings that participate in this scheme individually send an attendance sheet to the finance team on a monthly basis, with the names of the children and hours attended, which will then be added to a master spreadsheet.

3. Each parent must have an individual Supplier/Debtor Validation (SDV) code which is necessary to generate invoices.



4. Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) is a Government scheme introduced on 21 April 2017 to help working parents with the cost of childcare and will, over time, replace the Armed Forces Childcare Voucher Scheme (AFCVS). For parents already registered under the AFCVS to pay by SODEXO vouchers, they will need a Carer ID, this is 169974, the name is MOD Schools Nurseries, and the postcode is BFPO 113. The Debtor Code must be quoted on all payments.
5. The AFCVS closed to new joiners on 4 October 2018, [AFCVS DIN](#). Since 5 October 2018, only TFC is available to new joiners. Details of the TFC scheme for eligible working parents are outlined in the [Tax-Free Child Care DIN](#), accessible via the Defence Intranet.

## **EDC Provision Requirements**

Setting managers are to insert their session times in the table below.

Parents are to annotate the EDC sessions required for their child below.

| <b>Session Times</b> | <b>Monday</b> | <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Thursday</b> | <b>Friday</b> |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                      |               |                |                  |                 |               |
|                      |               |                |                  |                 |               |
|                      |               |                |                  |                 |               |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Acceptance Declaration</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| I confirm that I have read and accept the terms and conditions above in respect of<br>..... (insert child's name) being admitted to the<br>FS1 setting as an EDC pupil and that the EDC requirements above are correct. |  |
| <b>Parent's Signature:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| <b>Print Name:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| <b>Date:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |