



Charging and Remissions Policy

Status

Statutory

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that, during the school day, all children have full and free access to a broad and balanced curriculum in line with the vision, aims, and values of the school.

The school day is defined as: 8.50 a.m. to 3.10 p.m.

Equality impact

The policy is cross-referenced to the complaints procedure, and the data protection, health and safety, pupil discipline, special educational needs and whistle blowing policies.

Who/what was consulted?

The policy has been informed by DfE and local authority guidance on charging for school activities. Parents, staff and the Governors were consulted in formulating the policy.

Relationship to other school policies

The policy complements the school's equal opportunities and child protection policies.

Equality impact

This policy will ensure that no child suffers from unfavourable treatment because of their parents' financial position.

Roles and responsibilities of headteacher, other staff, governors

The headteacher will ensure that the following applies and that the information is available for parents:

During the school day



All activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum plus religious education will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It excludes charges made for teaching an individual pupil or groups of pupils to sing or play a musical instrument. Unless the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), a charge will be made.

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs e.g. off-site trips and visits where there is an admission charge. In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution.

From time to time we may invite a non-school based organisation such as a theatre company to arrange an activity during the school day. Under normal circumstances the cost of the activity would be provided from fundraising through the Friends Association. In some circumstances the school may ask for a voluntary contribution but no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution.

Optional activities outside of the school day

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, for example [after school clubs]. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education, nor are they part of an examination syllabus.

Education partly during the school day

If a non-residential activity happens partly inside the school day and partly outside of it, there will be no charge if most of the time to be spent on the activity falls within the school day. Conversely, if the bigger proportion of time spent falls outside of the normal school day, charges may be made. When such activities are arranged parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

Residentials

Charges will be made for board and lodging, except for pupils whose parents are in receipt of Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Disability Living Allowance or an income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

Other charges will be made to cover costs when the number of school sessions missed by the pupils totals half or more of the number of half-days taken up by the activity. In such cases parents will be told how the charges were calculated.



School mini-bus

Only the school's pupils, staff or parents may travel at a charge in the school mini-bus. Charges can only be levied if the school has a permit issued by the LA under section 19 of the Transport Act 1985. No permit is required if no charge is made to the user. Charges made for travel will cover only actual costs incurred, including depreciation; the service should not make a profit for the school.

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 can't. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising. As much notice as possible will be given to parents of the activity and the charge.

Parents who would qualify for support are those in receipt of Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Disability Living Allowance or an income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

Best value will be sought in planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

The Finance Committee of the governing body will monitor the impact of this policy by receiving on a termly basis a financial report on those activities that resulted in charges being levied, the subsidies awarded (without giving names), the source of those subsidies, and evidence of impact on pupils' learning.

Date established by governing body

Date for full implementation

Date for review