



Charging and Remissions

Charging and Remissions Policy

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for school activities, external lettings and extended school provision, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents. Guidance is based on the Education Act 1996: Sections 449-462 and the Staffordshire Policy updated December 2008.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of the School are responsible for determining the content of the policy and the head teacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the head teacher.

Definitions

Community Facilities - activities which the governors do not feel is of direct educational benefit to children at the school

Extended school provision - provision of childcare outside the standard school day where it is optional as to whether the child attends

External Lettings - letting to an organisation other than the school

Remission - where a charge is not payable, either in full or in part

Sinking Fund - a reserve put aside over a number of years to pay for major maintenance or renewal costs

Prohibition of Charges

The Governing Body of the School recognise that the legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment);
- education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;

- tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as an essential part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil, or the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (Wider Opportunities);
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school;
- education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;
- education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of the schools basic curriculum for religious education;
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school;
- transport provided in connection with an educational trip

Charges

It is necessary to determine, where applicable, for each of the following whether the governing body intends to make a charge and how much the charge should be.

- board and lodging on residential visits (not to exceed the costs):
Not Applicable
- the proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside school hours ('optional extras') to meet the costs for:
 - travel
 - materials and equipment
 - non-teaching staff costs
 - entrance fees
 - insurance costs
 Not applicable
- individual or group tuition in the playing of a musical instrument
Not Applicable
- re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
Not Applicable

- (e) costs of non-prescribed examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
Not Applicable
- (f) any other education, transport or examination fee unless charges are specifically prohibited
Not Applicable
- (g) breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils: a proportion of the cost of replacement as agreed between the headteacher and the parents.
- (h) extra-curricular activities and school clubs: charging as set by external providers or to cover the cost of materials if run by the school as agreed with parents prior to starting the club.
- (i) Letting of the school premises or grounds: see Lettings Policy
- (j) Extended school care activities such as breakfast club, after school club, holiday clubs and "wrap around" nursery provision
Not Applicable
- (k) Charges for materials or ingredients where the pupils wish to have the finished product: costs to cover the purchase of replacement materials or ingredients to replace used stock for future pupils to use.
- (l) Cost of transport to take part in work experience
Not Applicable

Consideration also needs to be given to:

- the proportion of the costs recovered where a charge is to be made;
- whether any remission is to extend beyond the statutory minimum;
- special consideration given to hardship cases not contained within the exemptions and how this is to be determined; use of Extended Schools Subsidy.
- arrangements for education where the parents fail to pay the charge being levied by the school;
- the level of support from the school budget where the level of voluntary contributions is insufficient to fund the visit or journey; the Governors have agreed to subsidise the cost of a visit or journey up 15% of the total cost.
- the maximum amount that can be used from the school's budget to support community facilities is the amount of the school standards grant allocation;
- any charge for a pupil activity should not exceed the actual cost. If further funds need to be raised to help in hardship cases, this must be voluntary
- for lettings, the charge should at least cover the cost, including:
 - Services (heat & light)
 - Staffing (security, caretaking & cleaning)
 - Administration
 - Wear & tear (sinking fund)

Voluntary Contribution

Parents may be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following:

- a) school visits, including transport and entrance costs

It is not school policy to ask for contributions towards:

- b) workshops held in school

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request for a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge. In addition the following will be made clear to parents:

- a) that the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay; and
- b) that registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.

The costs of any optional extra undertaken by any pupil whose parents/guardians are unable to pay may not be included in the charge to other pupils but must be funded through the delegated budget, school fund or other fundraising.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the head teacher.