

Charging and Remissions Policy

There is no charge for education taking place during school hours or for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

Schools and local authorities can charge for:

- **any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him to own them;**
- optional extras (see below); and
- music and vocal tuition, if the teaching is not an essential part of the National Curriculum.

Optional Extras:

Charges may be made for some activities that are known as "optional extras". Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge can be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment.

Optional extras are:

- education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - a) part of the National Curriculum;
 - b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or
 - c) part of religious education.
- examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;
- transport that is not required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority/governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education; and
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit.

Music Lessons:

Children study music as part of the National Curriculum and there is no charge for this. There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition since this is an additional activity to the normal school curriculum. This includes the purchase of music and examination fees.

Voluntary Contributions:

We invite parents to contribute towards the cost of school visits or trips used to enrich the curriculum and learning experience of the children. There is no obligation to parents to make a contribution and no child will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund an activity or visit, the governors reserve the right to cancel an activity.

Remissions:

Where parents of a pupil are in receipt of free school meals, the Governing Body will consider, under exceptional circumstances, remission of part of the cost of board and lodging for any residential **activity that it organises for the pupil, if the activity is deemed to take place mainly within the school's hours** or where it forms part of the syllabus for the National Curriculum.

Legislation:

Provisions concerning charging for school activities can be found in sections 402, 450 to 458 and 460 of the Education Act 1996 and in The Education (School Sessions and Charges and Remissions Policy) (Information) (England) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No. 2255).

Key Documents:

Further detail can be found in a Guide to the Law for School Governors.