



Reviewed by Finance Committee: 25 June 2021

Approved by Governing Body: 7 July 2021

Next Review: Summer 2023

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School Much Hadham

Life in All its Fullness – Come and See

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Purpose

We believe that:

All our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extracurricular) independent of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered and, at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

What was consulted?

The policy has been informed by "Charging for School Activities" (May 2018).

Relationship to other school policies

The policy complements the school's equality policy, curriculum policy, educational visits policy and the teaching and learning policy.

Roles and responsibilities of headteacher, other staff, governors

The headteacher, staff and governors will ensure that the following applies:

1. No charges will be made for:

- core 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 by the school, or as part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education
- tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments (or singing) if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it by 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 by the school, or as part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip

2. Activities for which charges may be made

a) Activities outside school hours

Non-residential activities (other than those listed in 1 above) which take place outside school hours, but only if the majority of the time spent on that activity takes place outside school hours (time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours).

b) Residential activities

Board and lodging costs (but only those costs) of residential trips deemed to take place during school time. However, pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see point 3 below) may not be charged for board and lodging costs.

Residential trips deemed to take place outside school time (other than for those activities listed in 1 above).

c) Music tuition

Music tuition for individuals or groups of up to four pupils.

Charges will be made as indicated below. Parental agreement will be obtained before a charge is made.

Activities which can be charged for (with the exception of board and lodging for residential trips) are regarded as "optional extras". Charges will not exceed the actual cost (per pupil) of provision

Activity or thing which will or may be charged for	Notes	Remitted or help available
Charges may be made for any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where a parent wishes their child to own them	For example, a clay model – a charge to cover the cost of the clay.	Remission for category B (see below)
Charges will be made for music tuition	The cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument or singing, where the tuition is an optional extra for an individual pupil or groups of up to four pupils	Remission for category B (see below)
Charges will be made for the board and lodging component of residential trips	The charge will not exceed the actual cost	Remission for category's A and B (see below)

3. Voluntary contributions

Our School Budget is not large enough to cover all the exciting opportunities we wish to provide for our children.

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. This will be at the discretion of the Headteacher in consultation with the Finance Committee on a case-by-case basis. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organized by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums and galleries;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- school trips;
- musical events
- workshops in school

4. Families qualifying for remission or help with charges

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged pupils, the governing body has agreed that some activities and visits where charges can legally be made will be offered at no charge or a reduced charge to parents and children in particular circumstances. This remissions policy sets out the circumstances in which charges will be waived. If remission or help is available in relation to a particular charge it is indicated in the right-hand column of the table above. Criteria for qualification for remission are given below.

Category A

Parents in receipt of

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) does not exceed the sum given in the Revenue and Customs rules
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after the family stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - provided the family's household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits)

Category B

- Children who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) or DfE Pupil Premium income whose parents do not fall into category A. (This does not include the KS1 Universal Free School Meals.)

Additional categories of parents may claim help with some costs in some circumstances to be decided by the governing body.

4. Additional considerations

The governing body recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end we will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

- where possible we shall publish a list of visits (and their approximate cost) at the beginning of the school year so that parents can plan ahead
- we have established a system for parents to pay in instalments
- when an opportunity for a trip arises at short notice it will be possible to arrange to pay by instalments beyond the date of the trip
- we acknowledge that offering opportunities on a "first pay, first served" basis discriminates against pupils from families on lower incomes and we will avoid that method of selection.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

The Finance Committee of the governing body will monitor the impact of this policy by:

- reviewing the annual PPG document, to assess the impact of using pupil premium money to fund trips
- keeping track of the extent to which governor funds are used to fund trips in cases of hardship among non-pupil premium children
- receiving an annual review of the trips split by class, to ensure that the total cost to parents is reasonable for each year group
- being informed by the Bursar if the number of parents not paying the voluntary contribution reaches a significant level