

Chalk Ridge Primary School



Charging and Remissions Policy

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1. Introduction

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on charging for school activities and the Education Act 1996, sections 449-462 which set out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools.

Under the provisions of this Act charges cannot be made to provide education during school hours. However, voluntary contributions may be invited from parents in certain cases and, in the one exception, charges may be made for musical instrument tuition.

This document defines the Governing body's policy in relation to charging for school activities.

2. Aims and purpose

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made

We believe that our children should all have equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parent's financial means. This charging and remissions policy describe how we will do our best to ensure that a good range of visits and activities are offered and, at the same time, we will try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of these opportunities.

3. Definitions

- **Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- **Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Governing Body

- The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.
- The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.
- Responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy has been delegated to the Resources Committee
- Monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the Resources Committee

4.2 Headteachers

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what we cannot charge for:

5.1 Education

- Admission applications
- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school

5.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

5.3 Trips and visits

- Education provided on any trip or visit that takes place during school hours
- Education provided on any trip or visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education

- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on trips and visits

6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we can charge for:

6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional extras (see section 6.2)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school and the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus

6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

6.3 Residential trips

We can charge for board and lodging on residential trips, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

Where possible, we will provide a system to allow parents to pay in instalments for residential trips.

When an opportunity for a trip arises at short notice, it will be possible to arrange payment 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

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include:

- school trips
- special visitors
- Materials for items produced in, for example, design technology and cooking,
- sports activities
- revision booklets for Key Stage 2 assessments

There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- Breakfast Club (£4.50 per child per day to cover the cost of staffing and food)
- Afterschool Club has 3 separate sessions, charged as follows to cover the cost of staffing and food)
 - 3.10pm to 4pm - charged at £7.50 per day per child
 - 3.10pm to 5pm - charged at £10 per day per child
 - 3.10pm to 6pm - charges at £12.50 per day per child
- Photographs and other sundries (whenever opportunities arise to purchase such items, parents will be informed that they are under no obligation to buy.
- Residential Trips (parents and carers will be asked to pay for the full costs of residential trips and associated activities and may be asked to contribute to the cost of travel).

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the governing board and reviewed in the summer term each year. Parents will be informed of the charges at the earliest opportunity at the beginning of the school term, to allow parents to plan ahead.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy.

This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question. Additional categories of parents may claim help with some costs in some other circumstances, depending on external funding, or fundraising, as well as the main school budget.

- Parents of children in the same cohort
- Identified children within a 'vulnerable group' or other group that may require consideration.

9.1 Remissions for residential trips

Parents of children who are eligible for income related free school meals (Pupil Premium) will be exempt from paying the whole cost of board and lodging for residential visits.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Resources Committee of the Governing Body will monitor the impact of this policy by receiving, on an annual basis within the Autumn Term, a financial report on those activities that resulted in charges being levied, the subsidies awarded (without giving names) and the source of those subsidies.