



Stoke by Nayland Cof E Primary School

Policy for Charging and Remissions

Introduction:

The Local Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, educational visits and residential experiences can make towards pupils' personal and social education.

The Local Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the School and as additional optional activities.

1. Aims

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

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on charging for school activities and the Education Act 1996, of which sections 449-462 set out the law on charging for school activities in England. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements. This policy complies with our funding agreement.

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 Local Governing Body

The Local Governing Body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Headteacher. In our school, responsibility for approving this policy has been delegated to the Finance Committee.

The Local Governing Body also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

4.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with this policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Our 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 Senior Leadership Team will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation as necessary.

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 the school 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
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) 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 Local Governing Body 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

5.3 Residential visits

- Education provided on any 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 a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out **what the school 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 below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, the school 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/Local Governing Body 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 Music tuition

The school can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a Local Authority

6.4 Residential visits

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

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 and sports activities.

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 this school charges for

The Local Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances for activities organised by the school:

- School trips taking place within the normal school day
- Activities outside the normal school day, (*including residential*).
- Musical instrument and vocal tuition, providing the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.
- Nursery Lunch Club or Breakfast Clubs.
- Some Friends of the School activities, e.g. discos.
- Visiting professionals, e.g. a visiting theatre group.
- Extra curricular clubs, e.g. Football, Dance, Gymnastics ("Optional Extras").

The Local Governing Body has the right to make a charge to parents for all or part of the cost of providing such tuition. Charges will not exceed the cost to the school of such activity or tuition.

The school may ask for voluntary contributions towards an activity that takes place within school hours, for school equipment or to the school's funds generally.

9. Remissions

With all activities, consideration will be given to those who may not be able to contribute financially to such activities as noted above. Pupils should not be excluded from an activity or "Optional Extra" due to financial considerations.

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 Local Governing Body and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the full cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Universal credit in prescribed circumstances
- 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 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit

- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008

The Local Governing Body will seek to support an application for a grant to cover the cost of board and lodgings for any residential activity that it organises. In other circumstances, there may be cases of family hardship that make it difficult for pupils to take part in particular activities for which a charge is made. When arranging a chargeable activity, the Headteacher will invite parents to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. Authorisation for remissions will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors, the remission coming from contingency funds.

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors reserve the right to cancel activities or visits where voluntary contributions are insufficient to make such activities viable.

Notes:

The Headteacher and / or the Local Governing Body may, from time to time, amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Headteacher monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Local Governing Body annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Finance Committee.

Signed..... (Headteacher)

Signed..... (Chair of Governors)

Date 15th January 2020

Review Date: January 2021