



# Sedgefield Primary School

Learning Together for Life

## Charging & Remissions Policy

### Learning

- We are committed to providing the best possible education in a stimulating, inclusive, environment; where children are happy, secure and enjoy all aspects of their school experience. Children are encouraged to aim for excellence and are nurtured to achieve their full potential.

### Together

- We encourage a feeling of belonging to a school family, within which friendship, kindness, respect for others and exemplary behaviour are the basis on which our children thrive.

### For Life

- We enable our children to gain confidence, take initiative, be independent, be responsible and have pride in themselves, their school and their community.

### Introduction

Central to our school aims is the expectation that the children of Sedgefield Primary will have access to a rich, broad and balanced curriculum. We recognise the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including trips, clubs and residential experiences can make towards children's education.

All the education we provide during normal school hours is at no charge. We recognise that activities offered during normal teaching time should be available to all children regardless of parents/carers ability or willingness to help meet the cost. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

### Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips, visitors or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experiences of the children, the school asks parents/carers to contribute towards the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a parent/carer wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity; they are not treated any differently.

Any contribution requested will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. It will not therefore include an element of subsidy for any other children wishing to participate in the activity whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge. Therefore, sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the activity. Parents/Carers have a right to know how each activity is funded, and the school can provide this information on request.

### **Residential visits**

If the school organises a residential visit in school time we suggest a subsidised charge to cover the costs of board and lodging and travel. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through these voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled. Where the parents/carers of a pupil are in receipt of certain benefits (please check with school) the school will offer to pay in full the cost of full board and lodging for a residential activity (transport costs will still be charged).

### **Music tuition**

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by a Local Authority peripatetic music teacher. A contract between Durham Music Service and an individual's parents/carers is issued. There is a cost for such tuition which is charged directly to parents from Durham Music Service. Children eligible for Pupil Premium funding are exempt from payment, but do not receive preferential treatment and must join any necessary waiting lists.

### **Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for children in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and Year 4). These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity, or for transport. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place.

### **After School Clubs**

The school offers a variety of additional clubs after school, which change on a termly basis. Qualified coaches/leaders, who are not members of the school staff, run and organise some of these sessions and a small charge is made for these sessions.

## **Remissions**

In certain circumstances, there may be cases of family hardship which make it difficult for children to take part in particular activities for which a charge is made. When arranging a chargeable activity, such parents/carers will be invited in confidence for the remission of charges in full or in part. Authorisation for such remission will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

## **Charges for Lettings**

The charges for the letting of rooms at Sedgefield Primary School is subject to annual review by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Anyone wishing to use Sedgefield Primary School facilities must complete a lettings agreement. Bills are sent monthly. Certain groups of users are exempt from charges, providing the activity complies with one of the following criteria:

- Provides extended services activities for current pupils of Sedgefield Primary School;
- Provides adult/family learning opportunities which directly impact on the support parents/carers of Sedgefield Primary School pupils are able to give their children;
- Is for the purpose of fundraising, which directly benefits the community of Sedgefield.

As Sedgefield Fun Club shares the gas and electricity supplies, they pay a contribution towards those fuel bills on a quarterly basis.

## **Monitoring and review**

This policy is monitored by the Governing Body, and will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.