



SCHOOL POLICIES

Charges & Remissions Policy

Ratified by *Governors*: 19th September 2017

To be reviewed:

Introduction

The Headteacher, staff and Governing Body recognises the value of providing a wide range of experiences to enrich and extend pupils' learning which in turn, contributes to their personal development. Woodhouse West Primary aims to promote and provide such experiences for the pupils of the school, both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and as additional enrichment activities. We believe that by rigorous teaching of fundamental Literacy and Numeracy complemented by a curriculum which provides enjoyable, exciting, stimulating first-hand experiences, that our children will be enthused, motivated, independent thinkers who are immersed in their learning.

However, many of these activities have an associated cost and cannot be provided unless voluntary contributions are received or parents are charged for the cost.

This policy will set out the circumstances in which charges will or will not be made for school activities and when charges may be waived in order to ensure that all pupils have an equal opportunity to benefit from school visits, curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Statement:

The policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

Where 'parent' is referred to this will include adults with a responsibility for the pupil.

We aim:-

- To make school activities accessible to all pupils regardless of family income
- To encourage and promote external activities which give added value to the curriculum
- To provide a process which allows activities to take place at a minimum cost to parents, pupils and the school
- To respond to the wide variations in family income while not adding additional unexpected burdens to the school budget.

Legislation – Educational During School Hours

The DfE in its guidance to School Governors states that "education provided during school hours must be free. The definition of "education" includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by school to carry pupils between the school and an activity." It goes on to advise that "although schools cannot charge for school time activities, they still invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions".

When additional costs are incurred by Woodhouse West Primary School to enhance the curriculum opportunities for the pupils, parents may be requested to make voluntary contributions. However, no pupil will be left out of an activity because his or her parents cannot make a contribution of any kind.

Education Outside School Hours

The DfE in its guidance to School Governors states that "Parents can only be charged for activities that happen outside school hours when these activities are not a necessary part of the national curriculum or religious education. No charge can be made for activities that are an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination. Charges may be made for other activities that happen outside school hours if parents agree to pay. The Education Reform Act 1988 described activities, which can be charged for as "optional extras".

Remissions

To ensure that access to activities reflects intentions, Woodhouse West Primary School will implement the following Remissions Policy. The fundamental aim of this policy is to ensure that all pupils gain fully from everything that the school is able to offer them and is based on an understanding of the relationship between low income, entitlement and access. This policy takes into account the very real and persistent difficulties which people on low income have in meeting the costs of educational activities for their children.

Where parents are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Support under part IV of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999 or Child Tax Credit (provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received), the Governing Body will observe its statutory requirement to remit in full the cost of board and lodgings for any residential activity that the school organises for the pupil if the activity is deemed to take place within school hours.

There may be cases of family hardship which make it difficult for pupils to take part in other particular activities for which a charge is made. When arranging a chargeable activity the Governing Body will invite parents to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. Authorisation of remission will be made by the Head Teacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

Data Protection of pupils and families.

Teachers will ensure that these children are not publicly identified and stigmatised. This is particularly important as the fear of stigmatisation is often a key element in the non-take up of Free School Meals. This will be accomplished by developing methods of collecting voluntary charges or dinner money, which do not identify children who do not contribute.

Contributions

Voluntary contributions may be requested to help with providing activities even though they may be part of the normal school day or part of the National Curriculum.

If voluntary contributions are requested for an activity it should be clearly understood that there is no obligation to contribute and that if the parent is unable or unwilling to pay, the child will not be excluded from the activity. Contributions will be requested for enrichment activities on the understanding that without sufficient contributions the activity may be cancelled.

Governors have agreed that the funding for all enrichment activities will be subsidised by 10% per pupil and that a shortfall of 10% will be permitted. In the event of a shortfall in excess of this, the decision to allow the activity to go ahead will rest with the headteacher in discussion with senior colleagues who oversee the curriculum.

The Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge for the activities and items detailed below:

- Trips which are not part of the school curriculum or are outside the school day (i.e. Weekend residential)
- After school and pre-school clubs
- Music tuition if it is not required for the National Curriculum and is provided for an individual pupil or for groups of pupils.
- Damage to school property - the cost of replacing any item, such as a broken window or defaced, damaged or lost book, where this is a result of a pupil's behaviour.
- Visits to school by professionals e.g. Authors, Storytellers, Musicians, Dancers, and Artists etc.
- Damage to school text and reading books

Individual Music Tuition

Charges may be made to parents for individual tuition in playing any musical instrument, even if such tuition takes place during school hours. Currently guitar lessons are held in school but arrangements for payment are between the parents and the teacher. The school provides music tuition for all children in year 4 free of charge.

Ingredients or Materials for Practical Subjects

Parents are encouraged to provide ingredients, materials, etc. needed for practical subjects such as Technology. The Governing Body may charge for, at cost or less, or require the supply of ingredients and materials if parents have indicated, in advance, their wish to own the finished product.

Lost School Equipment, Books etc.

Parents will be expected to replace or pay for the cost of lost items of School property.

Breakages and Damage to School Buildings, Furniture or Property

Parents will be charged for damage caused as a result of a pupil's behaviour.

Residential Activity

The DfE in its guidance to School Governors states that "For a residential activity taking place largely during school time or essential to the education provided at the school, no charge may be made for either the education or the costs of the travel. However, charges will be made for board and lodging in these circumstances, except for pupils who are receiving Income Support or Family Credit. The Head Teacher will tell all parents of the right to claim free activities if they are in receipt of these benefits." The full cost of residential activities will be requested by the school for such activities. Families in receipt of free school meals can request a reduction in the price (currently this means FSM children are likely to pay 20%, agreed by governors).

Woodhouse West Primary will follow the relevant legislation as contained in the Education Reform Act 1988: Section 106 – 111, 117, and 118. The guidance is contained in the DCSF circular 2/89: Charges for School Activities).

Photocopying

Any photocopying that is requested by parents relating to their child, under the 'Freedom of Information Act', will be charged at **10p per sheet and 20p for any colour printing.**

Private fees

Any report or data that is requested on a child for the purpose of a third party private assessment requested by a parent (e.g. Mid year pupil progress report for solicitors, private psychologist reports or solicitor reports) will be charged at an agreed rate by the Head Teacher in discussion with the Chair or Vice-chair of Governors. This rate will include a cost for staff time to sort and collate the relevant information (not less than £10 per hour) as well as photocopying charges (not less than 10p per sheet) and postage.

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

SUMMARY OF CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY 2013
(Reviewed Annually – Spring Term)

Activity	policy
Residential Courses in school time.	Parents are required to meet the full cost of the residential visit, except children with statements and children eligible for free school meals, where the cost will be 20% of the total amount subsidised from pupil premium
Enrichment activities during school hours i.e. visits	School will subsidise all enrichment by 10%. Parents will be requested to make a voluntary contribution on the understanding that without this the visit may have to be cancelled.
Visits to school by professionals e.g. Authors, storytellers	School will subsidise all enrichment by 10%. Parents will be requested to make a voluntary contribution on the understanding that without this the visit may have to be cancelled.
Activities outside school hours not within the National Curriculum	Parents are required to meet the full cost, except children with statements and children eligible for free school meals, where the cost may be supported from the School budget, by prior agreement with the Head Teacher If the income for each activity does not meet the overall cost, such activities may have to be cancelled.
Individual Instrumental Music Tuition where the school provides an 'outside' tutor	All children will receive free music tuition in year 4
Individual Instrumental Music Tuition where the school identifies an 'outside' tutor,	parents will be charged for the tuition.
Ingredients/materials for practical subjects	Parents will be charged for materials where they indicate that the 'outcomes' will be taken home e.g. models using batteries, cooking
Lost school equipment, books,	Parents may be requested to replace school equipment, books, etc. which have been lost by their child.
Breakages and damages to school buildings, furniture or property	Wilful damage to school buildings or property by a pupil may be charged to Parents by the school.