

Charging and Remissions Policy

September 2017

INTRODUCTION

Linthwaite Ardron C.E. (VA) Junior and Infant School Charging and Remissions Policy takes regard of the DFE Advice – ‘Charging for School Activities’ which has been recently revised. Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England. This guidance complements the information given in “A Guide to the Law for School Governors” (Chapter 23) and reflects the terms of the Education Act 1996.

The Policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the School’s Finance Committee and will be adjusted in line with new Government or Local Authority recommendations.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that there is clarity over those items which Linthwaite Ardron C.E. (VA) Junior and Infant School will provide free of charge and for those items where there may be a charge.

DEFINITION – THE SCHOOL DAY

The school day is defined as: 8:50 am – 3:20pm. The midday break does not form part of the school day.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Nothing in legislation prevents a Governing Body or Local Authority from asking for voluntary contributions that would benefit the School or any School activities. Linthwaite Ardron C.E. (VA) Junior and Infant School will invite parents and others from time to time to make voluntary contributions to enable the provision of activities and visits which may not otherwise be possible. If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, this will be made clear to parents at the outset. The Governing Body or Bursar will make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution. No student will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. However, if insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, it may not go ahead. Staff organising visits should make this clear to parents. Staff organising a trip will make it clear to parents at the outset what their policy for allocating places on the visit will be.

The Bursar will ensure that staff are familiar with and correctly apply the policy. The Governors will review the policy annually.

POLICY STATEMENT

During the school day all activities that are a necessary part of the National

Curriculum plus religious education will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It excludes charges made for teaching an individual pupil or groups of up to four pupils to play a musical instrument. Unless the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), we will make a charge in the form of voluntary contributions.

Voluntary contributions will be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs, for example, visits out. In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating in school day activities because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. (However, if insufficient funds are available it may be necessary to curtail or cancel activities).

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES NOT PART OF THE SCHOOL DAY

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, for example an evening theatre visit, professional football match, residential visits. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education nor are they part of an examination syllabus.

EDUCATION PARTLY DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If a non-residential activity happens partly inside the school day and partly outside of it, there will be no charge if most of the time to be spent on the activity falls within the school day. Conversely, if the bigger proportion of time spent falls outside of the normal school day, charges will be made. When such activities are arranged parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

RESIDENTIALS

Charges will be made for board and lodging

TRAVEL

Travel in an insured member of staff's vehicle is free, as all expenses are covered by School Funds. A charge will be added to visits where mini-bus or coach hire is used.

CALCULATING CHARGES

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can't or won't as well as those unable or unwilling to make voluntary contributions. Support for cases of hardship will come through School Funds or Pupil Premium.

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

ELIGIBLE BENEFITS

Exceptions on payments are made where parents are in receipt of:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance;
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;

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- 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 the limit set by HMR&C;
 - The guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
 - Any similar income related employment and support allowances introduced by the Government.
- Or the school is in receipt of:
- Pupil Premium for that child

Parents should contact the Headteacher to discuss reduced contributions where there is financial difficulty but no automatic exception for payment. All discussions relating to individual family's financial circumstances will be confidential.

MALICIOUS DAMAGE

Where it can be proved that a child or group of children have caused damage to school property or resources, a charge will be made to parents in order to replace/mend the damage that has been caused. There will also be a small charge for lost books.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Resource Committee of the Governing Body of Linthwaite Ardron C.E. (VA) Junior and Infant School.