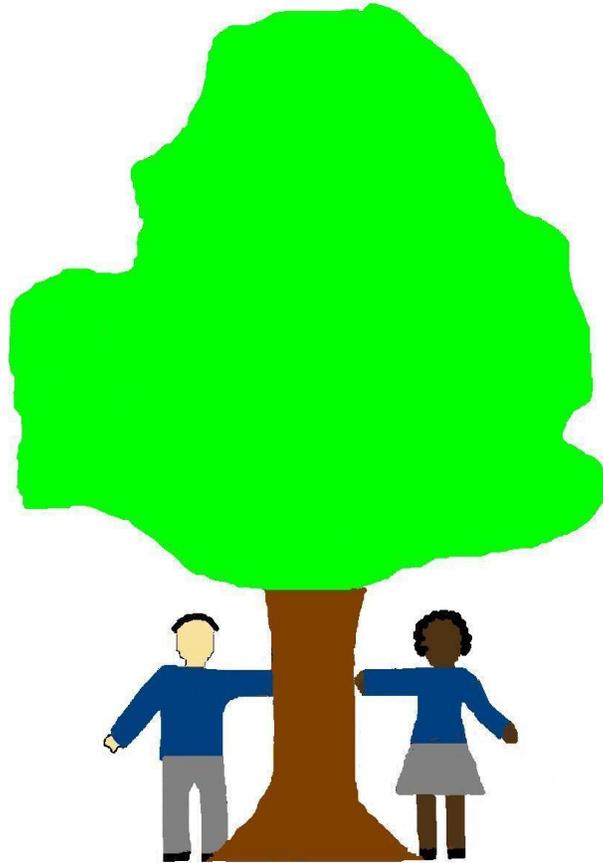


STANTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY



DATE:-17th November 2017.....

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS:- Charlotte Hare

CHAIR OF COMMITTEE:- Robert Jeffries

MINUTED:- Full Governing Body Meeting 17/10/17

DATE OF REVIEW:- November 2018

Stanton Community Primary School

Policy on charging for and remissions for school activities

Stanton Community Primary School believes that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra curricular) independent of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered and, at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

The 1996 Education Act requires all schools to have a policy on charging and remissions for school activities, which will be kept under regular review. The review date for this policy is recorded on the front of the document.

This policy will identify activities for which:

- **charges will not be made.**
- **charges will be made**
- **charges may be waived**

Voluntary contributions

Separately from the matter of charging, schools may always seek voluntary contributions in order to offer a wide variety of experiences to pupils. All requests for voluntary contributions will emphasise their voluntary nature and the fact that pupils of parents who do not make such contributions will be treated no differently from those who have.

The Law says:

If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions the parents will be notified of this from the outset.

No child will be excluded from an activity because parents are unable to pay.

If insufficient contributions are raised, the trip or activity may have to be cancelled.

If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay their child will be given an equal chance to go on the visit.

No charges will be made for:

1. Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment);
2. Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education;
3. Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments (or singing) if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum;
4. It remains the parent's responsibility to supply school uniform including P.E. Kit.
5. The Governing Body may charge for materials or require them to be provided if parents have indicated in advance that they wish to own any finished product produced in school e.g. Design Technology Products.
6. Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;
7. Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours
 - a. if it is part of the National Curriculum, or
 - b. part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education;
8. Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
9. Transport provided in connection with an educational trip.

Activities for which charges may be made

a) Activities outside school hours

Charges may be made for non-residential activities (other than those listed above) which take place outside school hours but only if the majority of the time spent on that activity takes place outside school hours (time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours).

b) Residential activities

For residential trips deemed to take place during school time no charges may be made for any part of the trip other than for the board and lodging costs of that trip. However pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see remissions policy below) may not be charged for board and lodging costs in those circumstances.

For residential trips deemed to take place outside school time charges may be made (other than for those activities listed above).

Is a residential trip in or out of school time?

If the number of school sessions on a residential trip is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half days spent on the trip it is deemed to have taken place during school hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening). Whatever the starting and finishing times of the school day, regulations require that the school day is divided into 2 sessions. A “half day” means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day.

General

The cost of repairing damage and replacing equipment (lost, defaced or damaged) remains the responsibility of the parents when this damage or loss is the result of their child’s behaviour or negligence.

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

Remissions

The Governing Body may from time to time decide to remit all or part of the cost of activities involving particular pupils. This will be at the Governors’ discretion. In other circumstances, there may be cases of family hardship, which make it difficult for pupils to take part in 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 Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher on behalf of the Governors. All parents, however, will have the right of appeal to the Governing Body, normally represented by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of Governors.

Families qualifying for remission or help with charges.

Criteria for qualification for remission are given below.

Category A

Parents in receipt of

- 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 the Inland Revenue) does not exceed £16,190

Additional considerations

The governing body recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end we will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

- A system for parents to pay in instalments
- When an opportunity for a trip arises at short notice it will be possible to arrange to pay 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 where possible.