



Someries Junior School

Charging and Remissions policy

November 2018

STATUTORY

The school has carefully considered and analyses the impact of this policy and guidelines on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of its commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Reviewed and Ratified by governing body:	26 November 2018
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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](#), sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools in England.

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 governing body

The governing body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the head teacher. The governing body also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy. In our school, responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy is retained by the Full Governing Body or any one of its subcommittees (Curriculum or Resources & Finance).

In our school, monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the Resources & Finance Committee.

4.2 The head teacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Our staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the head teacher 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 instructions in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the head teacher 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 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
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

5.3 Residential visits

- Education provided on any residential visit that takes place during school hours

- 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/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:

- Trips (including cost of transport, entrance costs and other costs relating to the trip)
- Special activities in school where we employ the services of other professionals, for example: a guest speaker, an education company, a theatre company, sports coaches
- Equipment, ingredients and resources for special activities that would not otherwise be possible

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.

The school may ask for voluntary contributions towards the cost of school-time activities to assist with funding, subject to the following conditions:

- any children of parents who do not wish to contribute will not be treated any differently;
- where there are insufficient contributions to make the activity viable, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then the activity will be cancelled.

All requests to parents for voluntary contributions will make it clear that the contributions are voluntary and that there is no obligation to make any contribution.

8. Activities this school charges for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- Some before- or after-school clubs where we pay for additional staffing, equipment & resources or outside agencies
- Recordings of school events for the personal use of children and their families (for example, DVD recordings of class assemblies and shows)
- Evening events, such as school discos
- (Breakfast club and after-school club (Castle club) are provided by an external provider which charges parents)

For these activities, the charge will be calculated to cover the costs of personnel and resources incurred in the running of the club. For evening events and recordings, the charge will also include a donation to the school fund or school council funds.

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be delegated to the Head Teacher or his nominated deputy and will be reviewed in **June** each year. Parents will be informed of the charges for the coming term at the beginning of each term, or sooner where the details are available.

9. Remissions

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 Head Teacher or his nominated deputy and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Pupils who are in receipt of pupil premium funding will be given a 50% discount on residential visits.

There may be other circumstances in which we will remit (wholly or partly) any charge that would otherwise be payable, where a parent presents evidence of financial difficulty but is not yet in receipt of benefits (for example, a very recent job loss). This will be at the discretion of the head teacher.

10. Monitoring arrangements

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

This policy will be reviewed by the head teacher every three years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Resources & Finance Committee.