

Amblecote Primary School



Charging and Remissions Policy

Responsibility for monitoring this policy: Head teacher

Review Annually

(or in response to changes in legislation/LA operating procedures)

Updated: November 2020

Reviewed: October 2021

Review Date: October 2022

Proposed by the Headteacher  Mrs J. Cook

Approved by Governing Body.....  Mrs C. Roberts (Chair of Governors)

Charging and Remissions Policy

Introduction

This policy has been formulated in accordance with Authority's guidance on: Charging for School Activities.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for activities, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of the school are responsible for determining the content of this policy and the Headteacher for implementation. Any determination with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the Headteacher and Governing Body.

Prohibition of Charges

The Governing Body of the School recognise that legislation prohibits charges for the following;

- 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, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination re-sits if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit at the school.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip.
- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education 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 trip.

Charges

- Board and lodging on residential visits (not to exceed the costs)
- The proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside school hours, to meet the costs for:
 - Travel
 - Materials and equipment
 - Non-teaching staff costs
 - Entrance fees
 - Insurance costs
- Vocal and musical instrument tuition.
- Re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school.
- Examination fees where a pupil fails without good reason to sit the exam
- Any other education, transport or examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
- Any other education, transport or examination fee unless charges are specifically prohibited
- Breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils
- Extra-curricular activities and school clubs
- Any extended school activity
- Damage/vandalism/loss to and of school property
- Community Use/Lettings.
- A school lunch of a child who has forgotten or is unable to find their lunch, a meal will be provided by the kitchen and the charge should be paid by the parent on the next working day.

Remissions

Children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, on addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of:

- Charges for board and lodging costs during residential school trips. Where the cost of board and lodging cannot be determined, the Headteacher will decide on the contribution to be paid.

The relevant support payments are:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and the family's annual income does not exceed £16,190 in the previous year
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance
- Universal credit in prescribed circumstances.

Voluntary Contributions

Parents will be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following:

- Transport to and from educational trips within or out of school hours
- Costs of entrance fees for trips.
- Costs of materials essential to the learning during the trip.
- Costs of extra adult supervision to ensure trip is adequately staffed.
- Costs of insurance cover involved annually for trips.

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request for a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge in addition the following will be made clear to parents:

- that the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay; and
- that registered pupils at the school will receive the same Learning Objectives for the event whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the Headteacher.

Voluntary contributions will be used to:

- Cover the actual cost of the trip i.e. entrance and transport.
- Cover the cost of adult supervision to safeguard children.
- Cover cost of annual insurance cover.

Bank Charges

Any bank charges that are incurred because of invalid cheques from parents will be given to the parent concerned for re-imbusement to the bank.

Refunds

Refunds for trips where a child was unable to attend will be considered but may not always be possible, e.g. when theatre tickets have been purchased. Refunds are not guaranteed and will be considered on an individual basis.