



COBHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Caring, Proud, Successful!

Charging and Remissions Policy

Purpose of Policy

We believe 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 whilst at the same time, whilst trying to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

The Headteacher, Staff and Governors will ensure that the following applies:

No charges will be made for the following provisions;

- An admission application to any state funded school- paragraph 1.9 (n) of the 'School Admissions Code 2021' rules out requests for financial contributions as any part of the admissions process;
- 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 the school's basic curriculum for 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;
- 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 the school's basic curriculum for religious education;
- Transport provided in connection with an educational trip.

Provisions for which charges may be made;

- Any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them;
- Optional extras (see below);
- Music and vocal tuition, provided either individually, or to groups of any size, when 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 who provide the tuition;
- Certain early years provision;
- Community facilities.

Charges may be made for some activities that are known as 'optional extras'. Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge can be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment. Optional extras are:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - a) Part of the national curriculum;
 - b) Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or
 - c) Part of religious education.
- Examination entry fees if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examinations 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 have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education);
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit, however, pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see below) may not be charged for board and lodging costs.
- Extended day services offered to pupils (for example breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

Voluntary Contributions

The school may ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

- Any activity which takes place during school hours e.g. swimming, cookery;
- School equipment;
- School funds generally;
- Transport to visits or activities.

Any contribution requested in respect of individual pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. In no circumstances will there be an element of subsidy required for any pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

Where there are insufficient voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then it must be cancelled.

Damage to property and breakages

Where school property has been wilfully damaged by a student or parent the school may charge those responsible for some or all of the cost of repair or replacement.

Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged by a pupil, and the school has been charged, the school may charge some or all of the cost to those responsible.

Whether or not these charges will be made will be decided by the Headteacher and dependent on the situation.

Families qualifying for remission or help with charges

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged pupils, the governing body has agreed that some activities and visits where charges can legally be made will be offered at no charge or a reduced charge to parents in particular circumstances. Criteria for qualification for remission are given below:

Parents in receipt of -

- o Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- o Income Support

- o Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- o Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- o Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- o The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- o Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- o Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Additional categories of parents may claim help with some costs in some circumstances, which will be decided by the Headteacher taking into account as to whether additional help is justified.

Signed: *Kate Cresswell* (Chair of Governors)