



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 parent's/carer's financial means. This Charging and Remissions Policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities are offered, and at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

Relationship to Other Policies

The policy compliments the Bearwood Primary and Nursery School's Equality Policy, Educational Visits Policy, and the Teaching and Learning Policy.

Roles and Responsibilities of Headteacher, Other Staff and Governors

The Headteacher, staff and governors will ensure that the following applies:

1. No charges will be made for:
 - 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.
 - Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments (or singing) if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum.
 - Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours. However, Governors have agreed that Voluntary Contributions may be requested.

- 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. However, Governors have agreed that Voluntary Contributions may be requested.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational trip. However, Governors have agreed that Voluntary Contributions may be requested.
- Visitors that support the Teaching and Learning within school. However, Governors have agreed that Voluntary Contributions may be requested.

2. Activities for which charges may be made:

- Activities outside school hours: non-residential activities (other than those listed in 1 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).
- Residential activities: board and lodging costs (but only those costs) of residential trips deemed to take place during school time. However, pupils whose parents/carers are in receipt of certain benefits (see point 3 below) may not be charged for board and lodging costs.
- Residential trips deemed to take place outside school time (other than for those activities listed in 1 above).
- When any trip is arranged parent/carers will be notified of the policy for allocating places.
- Music tuition – for individuals or groups of any appropriate size.

3. 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/carers in particular circumstances.

This Charges and Remissions Policy sets out the circumstances in which charges will be waived. Criteria for qualification for remission are given below:

Parents/carers in receipt of –

- Universal Credit
- Guaranteed State Pension
- Universal Credit Equivalents (Job Seekers, Child Tax credit etc)

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

The Headteacher has the discretion to offer reduced/free club fees for our own wrap around care (Breakfast Club) where a family is in financial difficulty due to long term hospital treatment or similar.

4. 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:

- We have established a system for parents/carers 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.

Signed by P.Leddin

Date reviewed: September 2023

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