

White Bridge Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Education during school hours is free and, in line with national regulations, the school does not charge for the teaching required to deliver the National Curriculum.

2. Voluntary Contributions

- 2.1** The school asks parents to contribute to the cost of school trips or visits, or events by external providers (e.g. drama workshops, history days, science days etc), which enrich and enhance the curriculum and the educational experience of the pupils.

- 2.2** Examples of optional additional trips/events that the school may provide, but which may be dependent on voluntary contributions, include:

- visits to museums, farms, interesting locations;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- annual school journey; and
- musical events.

This list is not exhaustive.

- 2.3** All contributions are voluntary. However, if insufficient voluntary contributions are received, the school may cancel a trip/event.

- 2.4** No child is prevented from participating in a school trip/event because their parent has not made a contribution. The school does not treat these children differently from any others, but allows the child to participate fully in the trip/event.

- 2.5** At times, the school may pay additional costs in order to support the trip/event.

3. Residential Visits

- 3.1** If the school organises a residential visit during school time, or mainly during school time, this is offered as a choice to parents and a charge is made to cover the cost.

- 3.2** Parents in receipt of state benefits which qualify their child for free school meals are entitled to request a reduction in the cost of any residential visit commensurate with the charge for the board and lodging aspect.

- 3.3** Any other parent who would like their child to participate in the residential visit, and who may be suffering financial hardship, should make an appointment to see the Head teacher who may be able to offer some assistance with the overall cost.

- 3.4** The school charges only for the cost for pupils and does not add the cost of releasing staff from school to supervise residential visits.

4. Music Tuition, Swimming and Optional Materials

- 4.1** All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. The school does not charge for this.
- 4.2** Individual or small-group music tuition is an additional curriculum activity and not part of the National Curriculum. It is taught by peripatetic music teachers and the school charges for these lessons. The school provides parents with information about additional music tuition each academic year. Parents in receipt of state benefits which qualify their child for free school meals are entitled to apply for music vouchers which reduce the cost of additional music tuition to parents.
- 4.3** From time to time teachers may offer cooking/technology/art activities to enhance the curriculum and the school may ask for voluntary contributions to cover the cost of ingredients/materials. No pupil will be prevented from participating if their parent does not make a contribution, but the activity may not take place if insufficient contributions are received.
- 4.4** The school organises swimming lessons for pupils in KS2, in line with National Curriculum requirements. The school does not charge for the cost of the swimming instructors. Currently the school requests a voluntary contribution from parents to cover the cost of transport to and from the swimming pool. No child will be excluded from swimming lessons if their parent does not make a contribution. However, the school depends on most parents making a contribution in order for the current transport arrangements to be viable.

5. Clubs

- 5.1** The school organises a range of extra-curriculum school clubs for pupils. These are optional extras which take place mainly after school and for which payment is required if a pupil wishes to participate. Parents are made aware of the cost before applying for a place for their child.

6. Monitoring and Review

- 6.1** This policy is monitored by the governing body and will be reviewed annually.

This charging policy is in accordance with the Essex County Council policy on 'Charges for School Activities and Remissions'.

Approved by Governors May 2017.