

CHARGING AND REMISSION POLICY

Introduction

Under the charging provisions of the Education Act 1996, governing boards of maintained schools and academies must draw up a statement of their charging and remissions policy before they may charge for certain defined activities. Legislation also requires that the policy must be available online. Pippins school's policy below can be found on the school's website.

Education legislation demands that schools, subject to certain exceptions, may not charge for education provided during school hours. However, schools are permitted to charge for other items and experiences provided to the pupils. Schools may also invite voluntary contributions to help support these provisions. Schools have a duty to inform parents on low incomes and in receipt of certain benefits that support is available towards certain costs when they are being asked to make contributions eg towards school visits.

Objectives and targets

The objective of this policy is to clarify which items and experiences that the school provides may have a charge levied upon them, how much of the cost the school expects parents to be charged and who will be offered support to pay for items and experiences for their children. It will be no less generous than the local authority's (LA's) policy.

Action plan

At Pippins Primary School we believe the children benefit from outside visits, journeys, visitors and extra-curricular activities in sport and the creative arts. We follow government regulations on charging. When an event takes place during school time, we ask the parents of the children benefiting to share the cost. Legally, we are requesting voluntary contributions, but if we do not receive enough to cover the cost, the activity may be cancelled.

Remission of charges

No child is barred from attending because his/her parents have not contributed. Families eligible for benefits, and others the headteacher believes are experiencing financial hardship, are not expected or pressured to pay. We keep such information confidential and handle situations discreetly.

Parents who are eligible for Free School Meals (not universal FSM) or Pupil Premium are exempt from paying charges:

- Universal credit in prescribed circumstances (the government plans to prescribe these circumstances when universal credit is fully rolled out).
- Income support.
- Income-based jobseekers allowance (IBJSA).
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child tax credit, provided that working tax credit is not also received and the family's income as assessed by HMRC does not exceed certain limits.

- Working run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit.
- The guarantee element of state pension credit.
- An income-related employment and support allowance.

Activities covered

If a child's parent wishes him/her to own books, instruments or materials used at school, then an appropriate charge will be made.

In years 4, and 6, children are invited to attend a residential school trip and spend two to four nights away within the school week. Government regulations allow us to charge the cost of board and lodging for children.

Payment

All payments, including dinner money, should be paid through Arbor. If parents/staff are having difficulties they should contact the school office. Cash or cheque might be permitted in particular circumstances.

Queries

If you have a query about a charge, members of the office staff are available between 8.30am and 4pm.

Monitoring and evaluation

This policy will be monitored and evaluated in the light of changes to legislation and comments received from parents and other interested parties.

Reviewing

This policy will be reviewed by a committee of the governing board annually.

Review Date: January 2024

Next school review due: January 2025