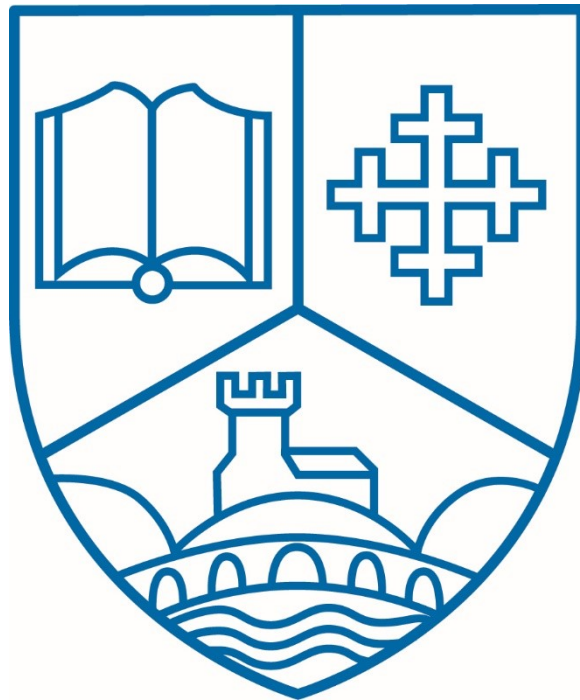


**BIDFORD ON AVON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Charging & Remissions Policy

March 2022

Review date – March 2025

Bidford on Avon Primary school Charging and Remissions Policy

March 2022

Rationale

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities, including day and residential educational visits; musical and theatrical performances and visits to school from subject experts can make towards the children's academic, personal and social education. The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities. As a school with a Christian foundation, the governors believe that all pupils are entitled to equal participation in school life and that social background should not be a barrier to this.

1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy has been written with reference to the DFE advice on Charging for school activities May 2018 and Education Act 1996 Sections 449-462 which sets out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England.

3. Definitions

- **Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- **Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy and for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

Monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the resources committee.

Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where charges cannot be made

School governing bodies and local authorities, **cannot** charge for:

Education:

- an admission application to any state funded school - paragraph 1.9 (n) of the 'School Admissions Code 2012' 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 curriculum¹, 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;
- instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent;
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school; and
- examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school.

Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local 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 visit – however the school may ask for voluntary contributions.

Residential visits

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours* (see appendix)
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
 - Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

Schools and local authorities **can** charge for:

- 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, in limited circumstances
- certain early years provision;
- community facilities.

Optional extras

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. The following are optional extras:

- 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 fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) 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;
- extended day services offered to pupils (for example breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

In calculating the cost of optional extras an amount may be included in relation to:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra;
- the cost of buildings and accommodation;
- non-teaching staff;
- teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and
- the cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

Music tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that 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 giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

Residential visits

We charge for travel, board and lodging on residential visits and activities where relevant, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

Parents who receive state benefits or are have difficulty in paying the full amount should speak directly to the Headteacher.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include: school trips, sports activities, swimming, residential activities.

There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. However, where an activity cannot take place without help from parents, and there are insufficient voluntary contributions, the activity may be cancelled.

8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

Materials, Books, Instruments or Other Equipment

The governing body may set a charge for materials used in school where a parent indicates in advance that they or the pupil wishes to own the finished article which incorporates the materials. Any charge will not exceed the cost of the materials. Alternatively, the parent may be asked to provide the materials in question. Where a child participates in a food, art or design activity the parents or carers may be asked to supply materials, or a nominal voluntary contribution will be requested for such an activity, on the understanding that the finished product is taken home at the end of the school day. Pupils cannot be excluded from an activity because they are unable to provide materials.

Education Outside School Hours

A charge may be made for education provided outside school hours which are not a necessary part of the national curriculum, provided it is with the prior agreement of parents. The charge in respect of a pupil will not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity. Costs will where appropriate include an element for travel, board and lodging, materials books, instruments and other equipment, support staff costs and teaching staff costs (where a teacher/instructor has been engaged specifically to provide the activity) entry fees, insurance and other costs.

Activities not run by the School or LA

A non-school organisation which arranges an activity to take place outside of school hours e.g. club, may charge parents who want their child to join the activity.

Loss or damage to Property

The school reserves the right to ask the parents of pupils who lose equipment e.g. home reading books, reading records, maths homework books and parents of pupils whose inappropriate behaviour causes damage to contribute to the cost of repairs or of replacing defaced, damaged or lost property.

Disadvantaged pupils

At the discretion of the headteacher the school will use school funding to ensure that vulnerable or disadvantaged pupil's and families requiring financial support are at our discretion given support with school resources e.g. uniform and are able to take full advantage of wider school activities e.g. clubs/ music tuition.

Passports

The school will request a donation to school fund for confirming identity on an official document e.g. passport.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

Remissions for residential visits and parental requested instrument tuition

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits and instrument tuition:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's annual gross income does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family's income must be less than £7,400 per year – after tax and not including any benefits)

10. Monitoring arrangements

The headteacher monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy. This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher every 3 years (or earlier if there is a change in guidance). At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.

Appendix:

Residential visits

Schools **cannot** charge for:

- education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours;
- education provided on any visit 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 visit.

See section 452 of the Education Act 1996 for guidance as what counts as during school hours.

Schools **can** charge for:

- board and lodging and the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

When a school informs parents about a forthcoming visit, they should make it clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of certain benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging. The list of benefits to which this applies can be found in section 9.

Education partly during school hours

Where an activity takes place partly during and partly outside school hours, there is a basis for determining whether it is deemed to take place either inside or outside school hours. However, a charge can only be made for the activity outside school hours if it is not part of the national curriculum, not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school and not part of religious education.

If 50% or more of the time spent on the activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to take place during school hours. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day.

Where less than 50% of the time spent on an activity falls during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours. For example, an excursion might require pupils to leave school an hour before the school day ends, but the activity does not end until late in the evening.

Non-residential activities

If 50% or more of the time spent on the activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to take place during school hours. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day.

Where less than 50% of the time spent on an activity falls during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours. For example, an excursion might require pupils to leave school an hour before the school day ends, but the activity does not end until late in the evening.

Residential visits

If the number of school sessions taken up by the visit is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half days spent on the visit, it is deemed to have taken place during school hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening).

Whatever the starting and finishing times of the school day, regulations require that the school day is divided into 2 sessions. A 'half day' means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day.

Example 1

Pupils are away from noon on Wednesday to 9pm on Sunday. This counts as 9 half days including 5 school sessions, so the visit is deemed to have taken place during school hours.

Example 2

Pupils are away from school from noon on Thursday until 9pm on Sunday. This counts as 7 half days including 3 school sessions, so the visit is deemed to have taken place outside school hours.

This Policy was approved by the Governing Body in March 2022 and will be reviewed in March 2025