



2025-2026 Charging and Remissions Policy

Introduction

We want all our pupils to have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities, both on and off site, within and outside the curriculum, regardless of their family's financial means. This policy sets out our school approach to charging and remissions, and is informed by local authority guidance. In doing this our intention is to ensure transparency in setting charges and ensure all children are able to access all the provision on offer.

This policy does not apply to charges made and determined by other organisations offering activities and services on the school premises.

1	Admissions	No charge will be made for admission.
2	School meals	No charge will be made for pupils entitled to statutory free school meals after proof of entitlement has been provided or to children in Years Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 while the government are funding them through Universal Free School Meals. We will charge all pupils not entitled to free school meals an amount determined by the local authority, contractor or governing body of the school, as appropriate.
3	Public examinations	No charge will be made for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list and the pupil has been prepared at the school.
4	Activities for pupils that take place during school hours ('School hours' are those when school is actually in session and do not include the break in the middle of the school day)	No charge will be made for activities provided during school hours (with the exception of small group music tuition see Section 7). No charge will be made for transport during school hours eg to swimming. If pupils in Years 1 to 6 wish to purchase a snack a charge will be made to cover the cost of providing the food & the labour.
5	Activities for pupils that take place outside school hours	No charge will be made for an activity that takes place outside school hours when it is: a) a necessary part of the curriculum b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school c) part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education <u>Optional extras</u> We will charge for some other activities that take place outside school hours eg Breakfast Club, extra-curricular activities, residential activity weekend. The Headteacher will decide which activities we make a charge for. The levels of charge (including any remissions/concessions) will be set annually on the recommendation of the Headteacher and the finance committee.

		Where we make a charge, the total collected will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise the cost to other pupils by paying more than an amount equal to the total cost of the activity divided by the number of pupils participating. Costs we can legally recover are as follows: a) teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra b) non-teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra c) any consumables, materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra d) transport to an activity outside school hours e) board and lodging for a residential visit
6	Activities that take place partly during school hours either on or off site	Where the majority of time spent on a non-residential activity is within school hours, we must treat the activity as if it is fully within school hours, and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 4. If the majority of the time spent on a non-residential activity is outside school hours, we must treat the activity as if it happens fully outside school hours, and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 5.
7	Music tuition within school hours	No charge will be made if the music tuition is an essential part of the national curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil (including instrument hire, music books etc). No charge will be made for the first programme in which the whole class engages with the KS2 Programme of Instrumental and Vocal Tuition (Wider Opportunities). This includes instrument hire, music books etc. No charge will be made for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours for children in care (including instrument hire, music books etc). We will charge for all other instrumental and vocal tuition requested by parents and delivered by specialist tutors within school hours, whether offered to an individual or group of pupils. Charges will be determined by the headteacher and the appropriate committee of the governing body and may vary depending on size of group, length of lesson and type of instrument. Where we make a charge for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours we will remit charges for pupils on free school meals as defined in section 9 of guidance as well as in certain other circumstances (eg for siblings) in order to ensure specialist music tuition is accessible and affordable for all children.
8	Damage to property and breakages	We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of school property. This will be determined by the headteacher. We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of property belonging to a

		third party where the school has been charged. This will be determined by the headteacher.
9	Remissions and concessions	We will comply with legal requirements for remissions as outlined throughout this document, for pupils defined as eligible by Dfe. The governors may subsidise in part or pay for in full 'optional extras' e.g. educational trips/visits/theatre companies and enrichment activities with effect from Sept 2018. The circumstances in which these subsidies are applied will be reviewed regularly.
10	Voluntary contributions	We may in certain circumstances for example small group music tuition, 'optional extras' e.g. trips/visits/theatre companies, music & sporting events, Early Years snacks and extra-curricular activities invite parents to make a voluntary contribution towards activities that are exempt from charging. Where we do ask for voluntary contributions, we will make it clear that children of parents who choose not to contribute will not be treated differently from those who do. No pupil will be excluded from the activity if their parents do not contribute. If an activity cannot go ahead without sufficient voluntary contributions, this will be explained to parents when the contribution is requested. If the activity has to be cancelled due to insufficient funds, all monies received will be returned to parents.
11	Confirmation of identity for passport/visa applications etc	We will ask for a minimum donation of £5 per passport to be made to School Fund, which will be passed on to the charities we are supporting.

Reviewed by Governors: Autumn 2025

Signed by Chair of Finance, Staffing & Buildings Committee

Next Review Date: Autumn 2026