

Ashfield Junior School



Charging and Remissions Policy

Updated Policy:
Governors' Committee:
Governor Lead:
Nominated Lead Member of Staff:
Status & Review Cycle:
Next Review Date:

January 2024
Finance & Resources
Tony Metherell (Chair)
Mrs S Frost, Headteacher
Statutory/yearly
November 2024

ASHFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL
Together We Achieve
CHARGING AND REMISSIONS

STATUS

Statutory.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that, during the school day, all children have full and free access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

The school day is defined as: 8.45 – 12.30 13.30 – 15.15.

WHAT WAS CONSULTED?

The policy has been informed by the Cumbria Children's Services Directorate advice issued in January 2009.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES

The policy complements the school's equal opportunities policy, curriculum policy, teaching and learning policy and off-site visits policy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEAD TEACHER, OTHER STAFF, GOVERNORS ETC.

The Head teacher will ensure that the following applies:

During the school day

All activities that relate to the National Curriculum plus religious education will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It also excludes charges made for instrumental and/or vocal tuition, unless that tuition forms part of the National Curriculum, part of the syllabus of a prescribed public examination, or the first programme in which the whole class engages with the KS2 Programme of Instrumental and Vocal Tuition (Wider Opportunities).

School governing bodies and local authorities cannot charge for:

- an admission application to any maintained school;
- 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 religious education;
- tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as 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;
- 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.

Schools and local authorities can charge for:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him to own them;
- optional extras (see below); and
- music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see Section 6 below).

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Charges may be made for some activities that are known as '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 that is not 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; and
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit.

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;
- 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 a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Parental agreement is a necessary pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made. The guidance includes other conditions that must be met, such as prohibiting charges that include any element of subsidy for participating pupils whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs, for example a visit to a museum, historical site etc

In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution.

From time to time we may invite a non-school based organisation such as travelling theatre company, life bus etc. to arrange an activity during the school day. Such organisations may wish to charge parents, who may, if they wish, ask the head teacher to agree to their child being absent/taught elsewhere in the school for that period.

The guidance clearly states schools' entitlements under the legislation to ask for voluntary contributions 'for the benefit of the school or any school activities'. It also states that: 'If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, then it must be cancelled. Schools must make sure that they make this clear to parents. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child must still be given an equal chance to go on the visit'.

Education partly during the school day

If a non-residential activity happens partly inside the school day and partly outside of it, there will be no charge if most of the time to be spent on the activity falls within the school day. Conversely, if the bigger proportion of time spent falls outside of the normal school day, charges will be made. When such activities are arranged parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

RESIDENTIAL VISITS

Charges will be made for board and lodging, except for pupils whose parents are in receipt of Income Support, Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit (with provisions) Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.

Other charges will be made to cover costs when the number of school sessions missed by the pupils totals half or more of the number of half-days taken up by the activity. In such cases, parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

In order to make up any shortfall in overall charges by the residential provider e.g. tuition, parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution. No child will be denied the opportunity of attending a residential if the parents do not wish to or cannot contribute voluntarily, however it is possible that unless sufficient voluntary contributions are received to cover the cost, the experience will not go ahead.

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; and
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

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 the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Income Support (IS);
- 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 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £15,575 (Financial Year 2008/09);
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit; and
- an income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

MUSIC TUITION

The law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, but music lessons are an exception.

Charges may now be made for teaching either an individual pupil or groups of any appropriate size (provided that the size of the group is based on sound pedagogical principles) to play a musical instrument or to sing. Charges may only be made if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), or the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (Wider Opportunities).

TRANSPORT

Schools cannot charge for:

- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school; and
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

Calculating charges

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can't. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising. Parents who would qualify for support are those who e.g. those in receipt of Income Support, Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit (with provisions) Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

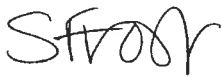
ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Finance Committee of the governing body will monitor the impact of this policy by receiving on a termly basis, a financial report on those activities that resulted in charges being levied, the subsidies awarded (without giving names) and the source of those subsidies.

DATE: January 2024

POLICY REVIEW DATE: November 2024

SIGNATURES



..... Head Teacher



..... School Governor

A reference copy can be located: In the school office.

