



Brunswick House
Primary School



Charging & Remissions Policy

Ratified On: October 2020

Next Review Date: October 2021

By: Finance and Resources Committee

Charging & Remissions Policy

Guidance

No charges can be made unless the governing body of the school or local authority has drawn up a charging policy giving details of the optional extras or board and lodging that they intend to charge for, and also include the policy for remissions. The governing body are responsible for ensuring that the charging and remissions policy is published. A policy statement should take account of each type of activity that can be charged for and explain when charges will be made.

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 (*it should be noted that 'part of the National Curriculum' is not restricted to learning outside the classroom experiences that are specifically subject based (e.g. geography or science fieldwork) and include, for example, activities designed to fulfil requirements under the National Curriculum 'inclusion statement' (e.g. developing teamwork skills) 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

If the school wishes to run an activity during the school day for which it would need contributions from parents or others, it can invite voluntary contributions.

However, no child should be excluded from such activity because his or her parents cannot or will not contribute. Moreover, when made, charges per pupil cannot exceed the actual costs incurred, which mean that pupils who can pay should not be charged extra to cover the costs of those who cannot afford to.

This may mean that some activities will need to be cancelled if the school budget cannot cover the costs.

If a charge is to be made for a particular type of activity, for example optional extras, parents need to know how the charge will be worked out and who might qualify for help with the cost (or even get it free). This information should be made available to parents.

Activities which are an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination must be provided free. The remissions policy must set out any circumstances in which the school or local authority propose to remit (wholly or partly) any charge which would otherwise be payable to them in accordance with their charging policy. For example, a school may decide to provide an Italian language evening class as an optional extra. The governing body may decide to reduce the cost for those children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits. (*Chapter 23 of A Guide to the Law for School Governors provides further, detailed guidance on residential activities, use of mini-buses, public examinations and activities provided during school hours by external bodies.*)

Status: Statutory

Purpose

The purpose of the 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: 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

What was consulted?

The policy has been informed by sections 449-462 of The Education Act 1996 which sets out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by the LA and the guidance document regarding music tuition charges. (The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007), which compliments the information given in chapter 23 of 'A Guide to the Law for School Governors.'

Relationship to other school policies

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

Roles and responsibilities of Headteacher, other staff, governors

The Headteacher will ensure that the following applies:

During the school day

All activities that are a necessary part of 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. The staff and governors recognise the importance of activities; that while not an essential part of the curriculum, add value and enjoyment to the experiences of the children.

Voluntary contributions may be sought for such activities during the school day which entail additional costs. In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. Children of parents who do not make a contribution will not be treated any differently. If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents, this will be explained at the planning stage. An activity may be cancelled if not enough voluntary contributions are collected.

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 where the activity is not part of the national curriculum. When such activities are arranged parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

Residential Visits

Charges will be made on residential visits which are part of the national curriculum for board and lodging, except for pupils who meet the eligibility criteria for pupil premium who will receive a 50% subsidy and/or whose Parents are in receipt of Universal Credit or receive support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Other charges will be made to cover costs when the number of school sessions missed by the pupils total half or more of the number of half-days taken up by the activity and where the visit is not an essential part of the National Curriculum or part of an examination syllabus. In such cases parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

Music Tuition

Charges will be made for teaching an individual or group to play a musical instrument or to sing where the activity is not an essential part of the national curriculum or public examination syllabus, for example piano, woodwind or drum where a peripatetic teacher visits and instructs.

Optional activities outside of the school day

We may charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, for example sports clubs run by teachers to cover costs of equipment. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education, nor are they part of an examination syllabus.

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a parental agreement will be a pre-requisite for the provision of any optional extra activity.

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. There are three categories of children that would normally qualify for financial support:

- Children who are currently eligible for free school meals (FSM)
- Looked after children
- Armed forces children

Support will also be allocated for pupils on roll that are known to have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any time in the last six years (Ever 6).

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents; a statement about discount (mutually agreed) with the school. We will consider supporting parents on a case by case basis.

Voluntary Contributions

The staff and governors recognise the importance of activities, that while may not be an essential part of the curriculum, add value and enjoyment to the experiences of the children. However it may be necessary for Voluntary Contributions to be sought for such activities during the school day which entail additional costs for example a visit to a museum.

In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. Children of parents who do not make a contribution will not be treated any differently. If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents, this will be explained at the planning stage. An activity may be cancelled if not enough voluntary contributions are collected.

Non-accidental damage to school property

Parents will be asked to pay for non-accidental damage to school property and/or premises caused by their child. The governors wish it to be known that this will only apply when a pupil is found to have deliberately or maliciously damaged school property and/or premises.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

The Finance and Resources Committee 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. It will seek to evaluate the impact of the school's extended services on those children in need of additional support.

Links to legislation and guidance documents

Further information and guidance documents and legislative provisions concerning charging for school activities can be found in:

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/c/chargingforactivities/index.cfm>