

Hatfield Peverel

St Andrew's Junior School



Charging and Remissions Policy

Approved by: Governing Body **Date:** January 2024

Last reviewed on: November 2021

Next review due by: January 2025

Document Detail	
Policy Reference Number:	6
Category:	Financial Management
Authorised By:	Full Governing Body
Status:	
Chair of Governors Signature	
Date Approved:	
Issue Date:	January 2024
Next Review Date:	January 2025

Amendments

5.0 DBS charges - volunteer guidance

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1.0 CHARGING POLICY

1.1 School Meals

The charge for a school meal will be set annually by the governing body following consideration of the Catering Business Plan as part of the annual budget setting process.

All meals taken by pupils who are not eligible for free school meals will be chargeable, parents/carers are expected to pay for meals in advance. Where payments are not made in advance of the meal being taken the following action will be taken :-

- When a child's account shows an outstanding amount, (the maximum of one week's dinners) a statement will be issued and sent out to the parent informing them that immediate payment is due the next day that their child is in school.
- If the child comes into school without payment for the amount owing and does not have a packed lunch, the parent is to be contacted by telephone. The parent is obliged to pay this amount either on the online system or by bringing the cash into school that day to allow a meal for the child. However, if they are unable to make the payment at that time the parent is liable to bring a packed lunch in and on any other day following until they are able to clear the entire debt.
- If in the event an outstanding amount is not paid in full within an agreed time from when the parents have been notified the Headteacher will send a letter formally requesting payment.
- Following the letter from the Headteacher, if payment is not received within 30 days the matter will be referred to the Governing Body for consideration.
- The Governing Body will consider each case and may decide to pursue the debt through the Small Claims Court. Before pursuing this claim a letter will be sent giving a further 30 days to settle the debt.

If, it is determined that the debt should not be pursued it will need to be 'written off' in accordance with the procedure laid down in the schools financial regulations document.

There is no charge for pupils who are entitled to free school meals or universal infant free school meals.

1.2 Educational visits:

The school:

- will seek voluntary contributions from parents/carers where applicable
- will not exclude a child from participating in an activity during the school day on financial grounds

Where 10% or more of parents decline to make the requested voluntary contribution (their identity will remain confidential), or the contributions shortfall is £150 or more, then the visit or activity will not take place.

1.3 Residential activities:

The costs of residential activities can be high and such activities may only continue to be available if sufficient costs are recovered.

Charges that apply:

- travel costs - transport to and from the residential activity
- board and lodging
 - full cost of board and lodging on residential trips whether or not it takes place during school hours
 - parents / carers will be informed of the cost before the activity takes place
- costs of supply staff engaged to cover the staff accompanying pupils on a residential trip where the trip takes place during term time
- full cost recovery for residential activities that take place outside of school hours

NB> The Headteacher will consider applications from children of families claiming free school meals to subsidise the cost of any residential trip. The amount of the subsidy will be decided on a case by case basis.

No charge applies:

- where parents / carers in receipt of certain benefits may claim exemption in accordance with the remissions guidance below
- for education costs incurred on any visit during school hours
- for education costs incurred on any visit outside school hours if it is part of the school's curriculum

1.4 Music Tuition

Instrumental tuition or singing lessons do not form part of the curriculum but are an additional activity arranged by the school and delivered by specialist tutors either on an individual basis or as part of a group, following parental request. The cost of such lessons is dependent on the charges applied by the tutors, the size of the group, the duration and frequency of each lesson. The school operates on full cost recovery basis. However, in order to ensure equal opportunities for all pupils, charges for music tuition within school hours for pupils eligible for free school meals or children in care will be considered for remission in accordance with this policy (see remissions section).

1.5 Examination fees

No charge when:

- an exam is part of the curriculum
- an exam is on the school's set examinations list
- the pupil has been prepared for that exam by the school
- the exam is not on the set list, but has been arranged by the school

Charges do apply when:

- the pupil has not been prepared for the exam by the school
- the pupil wishes to re-sit an exam
- the pupil fails to reach the required standard without good reason (the school may ask the parents to pay the original exam fee)

2.0 Extra-curricular activities:

2.1 Curriculum related clubs

Where these activities run outside of normal school hours, (ie. sports clubs, homework club, art club) a charge may be made to cover costs of equipment, teaching or non-teaching staff, specialist staff /coaches or materials used. The total charge will not exceed the actual costs incurred in the provision of the activity.

Parents/carers will be advised of any such costs before their child is allowed to undertake any such activity and participation will be on the basis of the parent's willingness to pay the charges.

Parents/carers are able to claim remission from such charges in accordance with the guidance below.

2.2 Breakfast club

- charges apply in accordance with the rules laid down in the school's separate Breakfast Club agreement, which must be signed by parents/carers before their child is left in the care of breakfast club staff

2.3 After school club

- charges apply in accordance with the rules laid down in the school's separate After School Club agreement which must be signed by parents/carers before their child is left in the care of after school club staff

3.0 Other areas:

3.1 Charges apply:

- books and materials belonging to the school that a pupil has lost
- books and materials that a parent wishes a pupil to keep after having been advised of the cost
- activities taking place outside school hours that are not
 - part of the school's curriculum
 - part of a syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school
 - part of the school's basic religious education
- property damage - each individual case to be decided upon by the Headteacher
 - full repair costs incurred as a result of wilful or reckless damage to school property by a pupil or parent/carer
 - full recovery of costs incurred by the school as a result of damage caused by a pupil to third party property

3.2 No charge applies:

- for activities taking place during school hours except any of those listed above
- for transport during school hours for school-organised activities except for educational visits as detailed above
- for activities outside school hours that are part of the
 - set curriculum including sports matches against other schools / academies
 - syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school
 - school's basic religious education syllabus
- for admissions.

4.0 Voluntary contributions

The school may, from time to time, ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions to the school's general funds in order to assist with the provision of resources to enhance their children's education. There will be no pressure exerted and any contribution will be gratefully received.

Where the voluntary contribution applies to an educational visit or extra-curricular activity, if the sufficient level of contributions is not achieved, that activity will be cancelled; any monies already collected will be refunded to the relevant parents/carers.

5.0 DBS checks

The school will cover the cost of DBS checks for all employed staff.

The school will cover the cost of DBS checks for volunteers see guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dbs-check-requests-guidance-for-employers#volunteer-applications>.

6.0 REMISSIONS POLICY

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors will authorise the remission of charges in all cases. The school will consider the remission of charges to parents or carers who receive the relevant support payments (in accordance with the current DfE listing) which make their child/children eligible for free school meals and for children in care.

All claims for remission of charges should be addressed to the Headteacher and will be dealt with confidentially.

The school may decide to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and pupils; each event or case will be considered individually by the Headteacher and the Governing Body.