

Ditton C of E Junior School

Charging and Remissions Policy

**Agreed by Full Governing Body
on 12 December 2017**

Ditton C of E Junior School Charging and Remissions Policy

The Governing body cannot charge parents and pupils for any activity unless it has drawn up a charging policy. 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.

The governing body must not charge for any activities which take place when the school is actually in session, excluding the break in the middle of the day. The exception is musical instrument tuition for individual pupils or pupils in groups of up to four, as long as such teaching is not an essential part of the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s).

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.

The school can charge for optional, extra activities provided mainly or wholly outside school hours as long as such activities are not an essential part of the National Curriculum or religious education. Activities which are an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination must be provided free.

Chapter 23 of A Guide to the Law for School Governors provides further, detailed guidance on residential visits, 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: 8.50 am – 12 1pm – 3.15pm

What was consulted?

The policy has been informed by A Guide to the Law for School Governors.

Relationship to other school policies

The policy complements the school's equal opportunities policy, curriculum policy and 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. It excludes charges made for teaching individual pupils or groups of up to four pupils to play a musical instrument.

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs, for example: Swimming lessons and transport costs to local swimming Pool.

In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because he/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.

Parents and / or guardians may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the following:

1. A partial contribution towards the cost of a day trip within the school day that is a necessary part of the National Curriculum or the basic Curriculum for religious education.
2. The cost, excluding board and lodging, of a residential trip, taking place largely within school time or that is a necessary part of the National Curriculum or the basic curriculum for religious education.

In certain circumstances the Parents and / or guardians may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards:

The cost of school equipment or books that has been lost or damaged either by themselves or their child. The voluntary contribution request will not exceed the replacement cost.

Optional activities outside of the school day

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, for example the Gymnastics club before school. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education, nor are they part of an examination syllabus.

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. Parents who receive certain means tested benefits **may** be eligible for charges to be waived or subsidised. Based on the arrangement with the school's current activity provider, families with twins will receive a 25% discount per child on charges.

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 are entitled to means tested benefits.

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 & General Purposes Committee of the Full Governing Body will monitor this policy by reviewing it on an annual basis.