



The Ridge Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

1. Introduction

The governors of The Ridge Primary School are committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum. All pupils are entitled to free education and the school ensures that activities offered as part of the national curriculum and wholly within normal school time are available to all pupils, regardless of their parents' ability and willingness to meet costs.

The governors are committed to a creative curriculum, enhanced by educational visits and visitors. These enrich the curriculum. However, governors recognise that this enrichment may not always be possible within the schools limited resources, without the support of parents.

2. Policy Aims and Objectives

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will and will not be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

3. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449 to 462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England.

It is also based on guidance from the DfE on [statutory policies for schools and academy trusts](#).

4. Definitions

- Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy. Responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy has been delegated to the Finance and Premises Committee.

Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances that they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

Parents and Carers

Parents/carers are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

6. Where Charges Can Not Be Made

Below we set out what we **cannot** charge for:

6.1 Education

- Admission applications
- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer

6.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority (LA) has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

6.3 Residential Visits

- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Supply teachers, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupils on a residential visit

7. Where Charges Can Be Made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

7.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carer wishes the child to own them
- Optional extras (see section 7.2)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 7.3)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

7.2 Optional Extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment.

The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The National Curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the LA or governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When 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
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra that is to be charged for.

7.3 Music Tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

7.4 Residential Visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

8. Voluntary Contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities that would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include: swimming, educational visits and visitors, equipment and resources.

There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

The school may ask parents to make a contribution towards replacing damaged or lost school property caused wilfully or negligently by their children.

9. Activities We Charge For

The school will charge for some activities including Out of School Care (OSCAR Club).

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the governing board and reviewed in the summer term each year. Parents/carers will be informed of the charges for the coming year in July each year.

10. Remissions

In some circumstances, the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 7 and 9 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

10.1 Remissions for Residential Visits

Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit – provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

11. Exceptional Circumstances

Where parents or carers experiencing financial difficulties, wish their child to take part in an activity for which a voluntary contribution is requested or where there is a charge (e.g. a residential visits) they are asked to contact the Headteacher in confidence. Each case will be considered on its merits and adjustments to help parents make the requested contribution or payment (for example a payment plan) may be offered. Where parents and carers are requesting the school provide financial help, the governors will consider each individual requests on a case by case basis.

12. Monitoring and Review

The Governors will review the policy as determined by the programme agreed and detailed in the policy review cycle.

The School Business Manager monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Finance and Premises Committee

Date of ratification: 23rd April 2024 Policy to be reviewed: April 2025

Signed _____ (Chair of Governors)