



Whitehill Primary School

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CHARGING AND REMISSION POLICY

Date Policy Originated/Amended	Date Policy Approved by WPS Governing Body	Signature
March 2016	25 January 2018	A Robinson
July 2021	July 2021	Barbara Guess

For review by WPSLGB

Next review due: July 2024

CHARGING AND REMISSION POLICY

Introduction

This policy is implemented by the Local Governing Body of Whitehill Primary School, in accordance with the Education Act 1996, and is subject to the requirements of that Act. It is reviewed on a bi-annual basis by the Local Governing body.

Policy on Charging for Essential Curriculum Activities

There is no charge for admission to the school, nor for essential materials, books, instruments, or other equipment, but excluding clothing. The school may charge in advance for the supply of materials if parents have indicated that they wish to have a finished product in, for example - technology, or retrospectively if parents declare at that stage that they wish to purchase it. The school may also charge for text books or equivalent which students choose to annotate and therefore render unsuitable for further use by others.

The school will not charge for any activities and visits taking place within the school day or, if outside school hours, those that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum, although these may be cancelled if sufficient voluntary contributions are not forthcoming.

Voluntary Contributions

The school may ask parents to contribute on a voluntary basis for the cost of materials, books, instruments and other equipment, and visits and activities within the school day (defined below), on the condition that no student whose parents do not make a contribution will be treated differently on this account. However, the activity for which voluntary contributions are used may be cancelled if sufficient funds are not forthcoming. For the sake of clarity, the non-return of a permission slip by a reasonable deadline does constitute a valid reason for excluding a student from an educational visit, irrespective of whether a voluntary contribution has been made.

Optional Extras

Educational visits, the majority of time for which falls outside the school day (and which does not fall into a "no charge" category) may be charged for. Parents must agree in advance to their son/daughter participating and will be required to meet any charge in advance. The cost of such visits will not exceed the cost of the provision for each student. Where materials, books, instruments and other equipment, are deemed desirable but not essential for curriculum purposes, a charge may be made. The school will also charge for the cost of individual tuition in playing musical instruments, where this has been requested by parents, within and outside school time, at or below the rate laid down by the Kent Music School, the school having the option of subsidising tuition fees for those students who support school music.

Education Partly During School Hours

If most of the time spent on a non-residential activity occurs during school hours, that activity counts as taking place entirely in school hours and no charge will be made. An activity or visit is deemed to take place outside the school day, if 50% or more is spent on the activity outside school hours, including travelling time, but excluding midday break, then a charge will be made under the "optional

extras provision" above. For residential visits, a trip counts as falling within school time if the number of school sessions missed by a student amounts to half or more of the number of half-days taken up by the activity. For example, a term-time trip from noon on Wednesday to 9.00 pm on Sunday would last for nine half-days, include five school sessions and would count as taking place in school time. A trip from noon on Thursday to 9.00 pm on Sunday would count as seven half-days, include three school sessions and would be classified for charging as taking place outside school time. If 50 per cent or more of a half-day is spent on a residential trip, the whole of that half-day will be deemed as spent on the trip.

Residential Visits

A residential visit is one which requires students to spend one or more nights away from home. The cost of board, lodging and travel on a residential visit taking place within the school day (as defined by the 1996 Act) will be charged to parents of participating students.

Remissions Policy

The school will remit fees for activities and visits which are of curriculum value as recommended by the Headteacher, to those parents who are in receipt of one of the benefits listed in the "Calculating Charges" section of this document or in other special circumstances approved by the Local Governing Body, or its Chair between meetings. The Local Governing Body will remit fully board and lodging charges for students whose parents receive one of the benefits listed in the "Calculating Charges" section of this document if they take part in a residential visit deemed to be during the school day or are required to take part in one for prescribed examination syllabus or national curriculum purposes.

Recovery of Charges

Any sums payable by parents for wasted examination fees, or charges for optional extras for which they had agreed or for board, lodging and travel, are recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

Breakages and Fines

No charge will be made for broken windows or lost library books etc., unless they result from students' behaviour, when parents can be asked to pay for them.

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 students participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who cannot. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising.

Parents who would qualify for support are those who receive:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances (further guidance to be provided by the DfE when UC is fully rolled out)
- Income Support;
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;

- Child Tax Credit (provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income as assessed by HMRC does not exceed £16,190 (13/14 value));
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- An income-related employment and support allowance.

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