



# **Charges and Remissions Policy**

## **Barham Primary School**

**Created by: Finance Manager, December 2022**  
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# CHARGING AND REMISSION POLICY

## **School Charging and Remissions Policy in respect of School Activities at Barham Primary**

### **Introduction**

Section 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 sets out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England.

This charging and remissions policy for Barham Primary School has been reviewed in conjunction with the updated October 2014 DfE departmental advice for charging for school activities.

### **Charging Policy**

#### **Activities without charge**

There will be no charge for the following activities

- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments and other equipment.
- Education provided outside school hours if it is 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;
- There will also be no charge where Instrumental and vocal music tuition is either an essential part of the national curriculum, or is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 Wider Opportunities programme. (see further details for music tuition where charges may be applied – see paragraph (a) under the chargeable activities section in this document)
- Instrumental and vocal tuition for children in care

For Transport facilities – schools cannot charge for;

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the Governing Board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he/she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit (though a voluntary contribution could be requested – see paragraph (b) optional extras – under the chargeable activities section in this document)

#### **Voluntary Contributions and other charges.**

- Nothing in legislation prevents a school Governing Board or local authority from asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the Governing Board or Head Teacher will make this clear to parents/carers at the outset, although there is no obligation to make any contribution.

- Pupils will not be excluded from an activity simply because their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay. It must be outlined that if insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then the school has no option but to cancel the visit/activity.
- If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will be given an equal chance to go on the visit.
- Many activities are discounted for children in receipt of Free School Meals or Pupil Premium Grant.

Further details are available from the school office regarding these (see remissions below)

- The school reserves the right to ask families to pay for all or a contribution to any damage caused to school property or the property of others.
- Curriculum enrichment in the form of workshops, visitors into school, theatre groups, etc. provided to bring a richness and common experience to children that enhances learning, language and opportunity. These are selected carefully and with costs in mind – they bring an important extra dimension to children's learning.

### **Chargeable Activities**

#### **a) Music Tuition**

- The charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 set out the circumstances in which charges can be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, including vocal tuition. These regulations also allow for charging for tuition in larger groups than was previously the case.
- Charges may now be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or to groups of any size, 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 who provide the tuition.

#### **b) Curriculum Enrichment**

Charges may be made for some activities that are known as 'optional enrichment extras'. Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge can be made for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment, workshops or instruction.

Optional Enrichment is defined as;

#### **(a) Education provided outside of the school time that is not;**

- Part of the National Curriculum
- Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or
- Part of religious education

#### **(b) Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;**

#### **(c) transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority/ Governing Board have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education);**

#### **(d) board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit;**

**(f) If the school offers after school clubs for extra- curricular activities – the charges will be notified to parents in advance of the commencement of the clubs.**

When calculating the cost of the optional extras being charged by the school, the following costs may be included in the calculation

- Any materials, books, instruments, or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra;
- the cost of buildings and accommodation;
- the hourly costs of relevant teaching and non-teaching staff;
- teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and
- 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

The school can charge for board and lodging costs for a residential visit, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost of the visit. Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging;

### **Remissions Policy**

Where the school has agreed to implement charges for the activities listed under optional extras, for those children in receipt of pupil premium grant funding (PPG) the school has agreed to waive on a case by case basis contributions and costs.

Charges for other 'chargeable activities' may also be fully or partly remitted. Details of any remission arrangements will be made clear when parents are informed of charges for individual activities.

Nothing in this policy, prevents parents being invited to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of providing activities both within and outside school hours, provided such contributions are genuinely voluntary, and that any request for contributions makes it clear:

- (a) that there is no obligation to contribute;
- (b) that pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents make such a contribution; and
- (c) children in care will not be required to contribute

This policy will be reviewed at least on a bi- annual basis (or earlier if new guidance/directives are provided to schools'/Governing board) and the updated policy will be presented to the next available Finance/GB meeting held by the school.