

# CHARGES, REMISSIONS & LETTINGS POLICY

## BUXTON INFANT SCHOOL

This policy was reviewed by the Finance Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019

It will be reviewed September 2020

Signed:

Date:

# CHARGES, REMISSIONS AND LETTINGS POLICY

## Introduction

It is the School's aim that all pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities. This policy sets out the School's approach to charging and remissions with the intention to ensure transparency in setting charges and ensure all children are provided with the chance to access all provision on offer.

This policy is based on the Derbyshire County Council's Charges and Remissions Policy. It therefore represents not only the School's but also the Council's Policy on Charges and Remissions.

Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 (revised in 2011) sets out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools. Parents on low incomes and in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for support in terms of contributions requested for school visits. Additionally, families in receipt of free school meals are entitled to an exemption from paying for the cost of board and lodging on residential visits. Further guidance can be accessed at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/706830/Charging\\_for\\_school\\_activities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/706830/Charging_for_school_activities.pdf)

Under Section 27 (1) of the Education Act 2002 governors have control over the use of school premises, subject to the local authority's general policy that all educational premises should be available whenever possible to provide for the wider educational and recreational needs of children, young people and adults. Therefore schools with available space are permitted to approve lettings in accordance with this policy.

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition and cost of travel to swimming lessons where appropriate.

## Day visits within or mainly within school hours

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the School invites parents / carers to contribute to the cost of the visit. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a visit. If a visit goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat those children any differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip, visit or activity or event but is unwilling or unable to make a contribution, we do allow the child to take part in the trip, visit or activity. Sometimes, school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have the right to know how each trip, visit or activity is funded and school will provide this information on request. Children in receipt of Free School Meals or Universal Free School Meals will be offered a free school packed lunch.

## Residential visits in school time

If the School organises a residential visit in school time (or mainly school time), which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum we do not make a charge. However, we do make a charge to cover accommodation, food and travel expenses.

To ensure all children are provided with the opportunity to participate on school visits, parents / carers experiencing financial difficulty are invited to talk to / write to the Head Teacher in confidence.

### **Activities outside or mainly outside school hours**

Parents will be expected to meet the full cost. Participation in these activities will be voluntary when the activity is not part of the national curriculum, not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination or not part of religious education. Prices for individual activities will be provided to gauge interest. Activities will not run where full costs cannot be recovered.

### **Ingredients/materials for practical activities such as cookery and craft**

To help school finances, parents may be asked to pay the cost of materials where the finished product is to be kept by the pupil. Costs for these will be calculated based on the cost of the material. No profit will be made.

No child will be disadvantaged because of parents' inability or unwillingness to pay, and, therefore, all children will be able to participate in these activities.

### **Lost school equipment, books, etc.**

Parents will be expected to replace or purchase lost items of school property including IT equipment and books. The cost of these items will be the replacement cost to purchase the same or similar item at the time the loss occurs.

### **Breakages and damage to school buildings, furniture or property**

In cases of wilful damage to the School building, furniture or its equipment, the School's Head Teacher, in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body may decide to make a charge. The cost of repairs will be as quoted on an individual basis. Where items cannot be repaired a charge will be made to replace the item based on the current cost to buy new at the time the damage was incurred. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

### **Music Tuition**

Charges may be made for vocal instruments tuition provided either individually or to groups, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent / carer. Current costs for music tuition are as follows:

- £20 for 7 sessions of Recorder Lessons

### **Other Charges**

The Head Teacher or Governing Body may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services, e.g. Photocopying

Photocopying, for non-school use (private), is available on request, charges are available from the school office. Private phone calls, other than emergencies are not allowed in school, therefore there are no rates for this. Freedom of Information requests - Single copies of information provided at photocopying rate per page unless stated otherwise in section 6 of the Freedom of Information Policy. If a request means that the school has to do a lot of photocopying or printing, or pay a large postage charge, or is for a priced item such as some printed publications or videos the school will let the requester know the cost before fulfilling his/her request. Where there is a charge this will be indicated by a £ sign in the description box.

### **Equality**

The School is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents, carers and visitors irrespective of their race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or pregnancy and maternity.

## Lettings

The governing body is responsible for setting the charges for the hiring of the School premises but has delegated the day to day responsibilities of managing lettings to the Head Teacher. Where a letting is agreed, an agreement form must be completed, ensuring that the person requesting the letting agrees to the School's terms and conditions and is appropriately insured. Payment for individual lettings is taken in advance and for regular bookings invoices will be issued termly with payment expected promptly. VAT is not chargeable on School lettings in line with the Derbyshire VAT Guide – Schools.

All costs associated with letting the School premises must be considered when determining an appropriate charge. The Governing Body's method of calculating the actual cost of the letting comprises three main elements:-

- i) Energy
- ii) Caretaking Fees
- iii) Per Capita costs

However, where appropriate an additional fee may be levied for the following:

- i) Computer & Printer Costs
- ii) Lettings by non-community/commercial groups
- iii) Excessive cleaning
- iv) Profit Margin
- v) Wear and Tear
- vi) Other costs

Current charges for hire of the hall or a large classroom room are as follows:

<b>CHARGING</b>	
WEEKDAYS (AFTER 6PM ONLY) AND WEEKENDS	£35 + £6 PER HOUR AFTER 1 <sup>ST</sup> HOUR

Please note that for long term lets we will consider offering a reduced fee on a case by case basis.

Concessionary rates or free letting agreements may be appropriate in certain situations where it is deemed by the Governing Body to be of benefit to the School, its children or meets community goals. In such situations the reasons for the concessionary rate must be clearly minuted and approved. The organisation requesting the letting must still sign to agree to the School's terms and conditions and must have appropriate insurance.

Adopted by the governing board of Buxton Infant School on **30<sup>th</sup> September 2019**