

Christ Church C of E Primary School



Charging & Remissions policy

Introduction

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 some individual or small group music tuition.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute toward the cost. All contributions are voluntary, however, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contributions. We do not treat these children differently from any others. No child will be excluded from an activity simply because his/her parents are unwilling or unable to pay

The 1998 Education Act draws a distinction between the term 'Charges' which are considered to be an obligatory cost and 'Voluntary contributions' which are self-explanatory.

Subsidies from various sources e.g. School Fund, budget allocation (agreed with the governors) or voluntary organisations will be considered to cover deficits. Surplus finance will be used via school fund for the benefit of the children.

Whenever possible, the school will give sufficient notice to allow parent/carers to pay by installments.

Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums, where entrance is not free of charge;
- sporting activities;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- school trips and musical events.

Residential Trips

If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, we do not make any charge for the education. However, we do make a charge towards the cost of board and lodging and travel.

Currently Christ Church C of E Primary School organises two residential visits for KS2 children - Robinwood and High Borrans. The transport costs (coach) for these trips is paid for by school.

In addition, children in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding receive a discount, equivalent to the cost of the deposit. These measures to reduce the cost of the residential trip makes it more affordable for parents. Parents are also encouraged to pay in installments over a number of months.

Music tuition

Although the law states that in general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to the rule. As children study music as part of the normal school curriculum, there is no charge for this.

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. Charges can 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. This is an additional curriculum activity and not part of the National Curriculum and are taught by peripatetic music teachers.

When appropriate, we give parents information about additional music tuition/charges at the start of each academic year.

These regulations make it clear that no charge can be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by a local authority.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Years 4. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum and we ask parents for a voluntary contribution of £1 a week towards travel. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part.

After school sport and creative activities

The school offers a broad range of additional activities after school. We currently make no charge for any after school clubs. However, we reserve the right to make a small charge for these sessions.

Damage/Loss to property

In cases of willful or malicious damage to equipment or breakages, or loss of school books on loan to children, the head teacher in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body may decide it right to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

FURTHER INFORMATION

At the time of writing, further information can be obtained from the Department for Education Document - DFE-00244-2013 **Charging for School Activities** (Departmental Advice for governing bodies, school staff and local authorities) October 2014