



Goodrich Church of England Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

Date: September 2016

Reviewed: October 2017

Headteacher: Mrs. Karen Miles

Governor: Mr. Neil Crofts

Policy Review date: October 2021

GOODRICH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
CHARGING & REMISSION POLICY

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

The School conforms to the LEA's charging policy, the DES Circular 2/89 and the Education Reform Act 1988: Charges for School Activities.

The Governing Board recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including trips, clubs and residential experiences can make towards pupils' education. The Governing Board aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities. However due to the limited funds in the delegated budget, the Governing Board reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances for activities organised by the school. The Governing Board will, from time to time, review and amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made.

SECTION 2

CHARGING FOR VISITS

a) All Visits

The visit organiser should always ensure that parents are notified as early as possible as to:

- the total cost of the visit;
- how much of the cost will come from school or LA funds (as in the case of field trips);
- how much each parent will need to pay or be asked to contribute towards the cost of the visit;
- how much spending/pocket money pupils will reasonably need (especially important for trips which involve a residential element);
- use of any surplus funds, i.e. will they be returned to parents or retained for future visits?

Early notification of the above is important as this allows parents to make financial preparations. Many parents find it helpful to gauge the value of the visit if they have information relating to the constituent costs of the visit, i.e. transport, accommodation, food, etc.

b) During Normal School Hours

In all schools, except Independent Schools, visits which occur during school hours must be provided free of charge. However, parents can be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the trip. In reality the value of the requested contributions equates to the total cost of the visit (or more to allow for those parents who cannot or will not contribute) and Pupils whose parents/guardians do not contribute cannot be discriminated against.

The Governing Board may offer to remit the full cost of full board and lodging for any residential activity which:

- takes place during school hours or;
- is not an optional extra (see following section for definition).

The decision to offer to remit board and lodging costs, as above, is subject to the parents of a pupil being in receipt of:

- Income Support;
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance;
- Family Credit;
- Disability Working Allowance.

Parental permission should be obtained in one of two ways:

i) Sample Parental Declaration. Parents sign a declaration which contains, e.g.

I understand:

- that current legislation permits the School to ask for voluntary contributions towards the costs involved;
- that no pupil will be discriminated against on the grounds of inability to pay;

ii) Signed Slip received back from parents:

A letter about the visit is sent out to parents and contains a reply slip (with space for parental signature) and also a section on meeting the costs of the visit, the essence of which is contained in the following example:

"All pupils will need to take a packed lunch with them. As we are travelling by coach, a small cost will be incurred. Current legislation permits us to ask only for voluntary contributions towards the costs involved. No pupil will be discriminated against on the grounds of inability to pay. A voluntary contribution of £___ would be appreciated."

c) Outside Of Normal School Hours/Optional Extras

The Headteacher can charge parents for board and lodging on residential visits as well as the full cost when a visit is deemed to be an 'optional extra'. An optional extra:

- falls wholly or mainly outside school hours, i.e. a residential trip during the school holidays is an optional extra.
- does not form part of the National Curriculum or the statutory requirements for religious education.
- is a club which incurs costs to the school in terms of resources or staffing.

The parents' agreement to meet the costs of an optional extra visit before that visit is planned in detail will always be obtained in writing. The stated cost of an optional extra visit must not include an element of subsidy for pupils whose families do not meet the full charge.

SECTION 3

INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

The cost to the pupil for providing any instrumental tuition not part of normal Encore peripatetic provision. The fees for the peripatetic lessons are now collected by individual teachers.

SECTION 4

INGREDIENTS/MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT (IN KIND)

The Governing Board reserves the right to charge for ingredients, materials or equipment (or the provision of them by parents). We do however at Goodrich aim to include these costings within our Budget Planning.

SECTION 5

BROKEN EQUIPMENT (REPLACEMENT)

The Governors can allow the Head teacher to ask pupils and/or their parents to contribute towards the cost of replacement items where these were damaged or broken as a direct result of misconduct on the pupils' part. This does not in any way detract from the teaching staffs' duty to brief pupils thoroughly and to manage a calm and safe working environment for the pupils. At Goodrich we have a very small incidence of the above particularly through misconduct.

SECTION 6
REMISSIONS

The Governing Board may remit in full or in part the cost of any activity for particular groups of parents, for example, in the case of family hardship. When arranging a chargeable activity such parents will be invited in confidence for the remission of charges in full or in part. Authorisation for such remission will be made by the Head teacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors.