CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

We are committed to quality learning in a positive, happy and Christian atmosphere where everyone within the school community is valued as an individual. We expect everyone to, 'Treat others as you want them to treat you.' (Matthew 7:12-14). We have high expectations of all and strive to provide a safe, challenging, exciting and stimulating environment.

Our Values:

To ensure that all charging and remissions are conducted in an ethical, professional and lawful manner through:

Respect – by respecting the individual needs of all our children and ensuring there are equal opportunities for all whatever their socio-economic background.

Compassion – by showing compassion and understanding for each individual situation that a child and family finds themselves in and supporting effectively.

Creation – creating an equal environment which allows children to be effectively supported, helping them to thrive and flourish.

Perseverance – by persevering with challenges which may arise, in dealing with situations that children and families find themselves in. Always acting in the best interests of the child.

Service – by building trusting relationships with children and their families as we serve to help to provide equality of opportunity for all children.

The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced new provisions on charging for school activities. The purposes of these provisions are:

- to maintain the right to a free school education.
- to ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within normal school time should be available to all pupils, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
- to give educational authorities and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours.

- to confirm that schools may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, either in or outside school hours.

The Governors believe that educational visits (or visitors) are an extension to, and an enrichment of the curriculum. They have adopted the LA Policy of Charging for School Activities, which allows the school to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to support these activities. The policy is reviewed annually.

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:

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. 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 the full contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request. In the case of residential trips when school has to make a commitment in advance, any deposit received from the parents will be non-refundable.

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

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- school trips;
- musical events.

Residential visits

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 make a charge to cover the costs of any workshops, board, lodgings and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to contact or write in confidence to the Headteacher. Monies received by the school for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium are set aside for this purpose. In addition, pupils in receipt of UFSM are

encouraged and made aware of the benefits of applying for FSM status should they be entitled to this benefit.

Remissions

Parents may be eligible for a refund in certain circumstances e.g. child unable to attend a swimming lesson, absence on the day of a visit, depending upon whether or not school are liable for payment by the provider. (See note regarding non-refundable deposits in Voluntary Contributions).

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

There is a charge for individual music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. Music tutors visit school to teach individual or small group lessons and charge the parents directly.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children from Year 3 to Year 6. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for the swimming lessons but request a contribution for the cost of the transport to take the children to Neston Recreation Centre. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

Lettings charges

School currently has a long term letting agreement with a before/after/holiday school provider.

Any other lettings would be charged at the rate recommended by Cheshire West and Chester. See attached list for charges for Academic Year 2024 to 2025. (Appendix I in Financial Manual of Internal Procedures)

Approved by Governors 12th December 2024



Signed Chair of Governors