

# Paxcroft Primary School

## Charging and Remissions Policy

**Reviewed: September 2023**

**Next date for review: September 2024**

Paxcroft Primary School has adopted this CSL Policy (last updated June 2023) in totality.



**PAXCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**POLICY RATIFIED ON:**

**POLICY REVIEW DATE:**



## **CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY**

**This policy should be read and understood with reference to the following documents:**

- The Education Act 1966 (Sections 449 – 462)
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Section 56)
- [Charging for School Activities \(DfE May 2018\) \(Appendix A\)](#)
- [School Admissions Code 2021 \(paragraph 1.9\(n\)\)](#)
- [Governors' Handbook - see section on 'Finance'](#)
- The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007
- [Home to school travel and transport guidance \(DfE July 2014\)](#)
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Lettings Policy

### **1. Principles**

- We want all our pupils to have an equality of opportunity to benefit from school activities, both on and off site, within and outside the curriculum, regardless of their family's financial means. This policy sets out our school approach to charging and remissions and is informed by guidance from the Department of Education (Appendix A). In doing this our intention is to ensure transparency in setting charges and ensure all children are able to access all the provision on offer.
- Parents on low incomes and in receipt of certain benefits will be informed of the support that is available to them when being asked for contributions towards the cost of school visits. The list of eligible benefits are the same as those that entitle parents to claim for free school meals and can be found by clicking on the this link [here](#).
- This policy does not apply to charges made and determined by other organisations offering activities and services on the school premises.

### **2. Main points**

- The governing body of Paxcroft Primary School are bound by the regulations (as outlined in Appendix A of this policy: ['Charging for School Activities' \(DfE May 2018\)](#)). Clarification can be sought from the Head Teacher if anything in this document is unclear.
- School governing bodies and local authorities, subject to limited exceptions as outlined in 'Charging for School Activities' (and in sections 3 and 4 below) cannot charge for education provided during school hours, including the supply of any materials books, instruments or other equipment.
- Schools cannot charge for transport related to a pupil's education (or any external examinations) where arrangements have been made for these by either the school or the local authority. More detailed guidance on school travel can be found in the

### 3. **What can schools charge for?**

- **Materials, book instruments and/or equipment** can be charged for where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them.
- **Music and vocal tuition** over and above that provided either under the national curriculum or under the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme. Charges can therefore be made for instrumental and vocal musical tuition to children either individually or in groups of any size, as long as it is being provided at the request of parents and that the charge does not exceed the cost (including that of the staff providing the tuition. The only exception to this is in respect of a pupil who is 'looked after' by the local authority. Where we make a charge for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours, we will remit charges for pupils on free school meals as well as in certain other circumstances (such as an SEMH need) in order to ensure that specialist music tuition is accessible and affordable for all children.
- **Wilful damage or breakage of school property:** we may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of school property. This will be determined by the Head Teacher. We may also seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage or property belonging to a third party where the school has been charged. This will be determined by the Head Teacher.
- **Community facilities:** the school can charge for allowing the school's premises to be used out of school hours for community activities. All the details are outlined in our school's 'Lettings Policy', which is in line with Local Authority guidelines.
- **Optional extras** (see section 4 below)

### 4. **Optional extras and charges at the school's discretion**

- The school may charge for some activities that are known as 'optional extras' and are described in detail in the DfE guidance, together with information on how these costs are calculated.
- 'Optional extras' include education provided outside school time that is not:
  - part of the national curriculum
  - part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or
  - part of religious education
- In addition, optional extras also include:
  - examination entry fees where the pupil has not been prepared for the examination at the school
  - transport (unless it is required and approved by the Local Authority, to take a pupil to school or alternative educational provision)
  - board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
  - extended day services offered to pupils (e.g. breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, teas and supervised homework sessions).
- The DfE guidance lays out in detail how such costs are calculated and that any charge made must not exceed the cost of providing the 'optional extra' divided by the number of children involved in the activity.
- Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and

willingness to meet the charges. Therefore parental agreement is a necessary pre-requisite where charges are to be made.

#### **5. Voluntary contributions**

- We may, in certain circumstances, invite parents to make a voluntary contribution towards activities that are exempt from charging.
- Where we do ask for voluntary contributions, we will make it clear that children of parents who choose not to contribute will not be treated differently from those who do. No pupil will be excluded from the activity if their parents do not contribute.
- If an activity cannot go ahead without sufficient voluntary contributions, this will be explained to the parents when the contribution is requested. If the activity has to be cancelled due to insufficient funds, all monies received will be returned to parents.

#### **6. Residential visits**

- Schools cannot charge for:
  - education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
  - education provided on any visit that takes place 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 by the school, or part of religious education
  - supply teachers to cover the cost for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visits.
- Schools can however charge for:
  - board and lodging at the actual cost
- When we inform parents about any planned visits, we will ensure that they understand that those parents who are in receipt of certain benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging.
- The school will follow the formula as laid out in the DfE guidance when calculating any charge that can be made.

#### **7. Publication of this policy:**

- This policy will be published on the school website and hard copies will also be available on request from the school office.

#### **8. Review of the policy:**

- This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier in the event of any changes.