



Charging and Remissions Policy

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for activities, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of West Oaks School is responsible for determining the content of this policy and the principle for implementation. Any determination with respect to individual parents/carers will be considered jointly by the Principal and Governing Body.

The Governing Body of the School recognise that legislation prohibits charges for the following;

- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment).
- Education provided 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 at the school, or part of religious education.
- Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination re-sits if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit at the school.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours.
- Education provided on any trip 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 at the school, or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip.
- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for pupils to be educated.

- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational trip.

Charges may be made for;

- Board and lodging on residential visits (not to exceed the costs)
- The proportionate costs for an individual child of activities *wholly or mainly outside* school hours ('optional extras') to meet the costs for;
 - Travel
 - Materials and equipment
 - Non-teaching staff costs
 - Entrance fees
 - Insurance costs
- Vocal and musical instrument tuition
- Re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
- Examination fees where a pupil fails without good reason to sit the exam
- Any other education, transport or examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
- Any other education, transport or examination fee unless charges are specifically prohibited
- Breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils
- Extra-curricular activities and school clubs
- Any extended school activity
- Damage/vandalism/loss to and of school property

Remission

Children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of charges for board and lodging costs during residential school trips. The relevant support payments are;

- Income Support

- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1998
- Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) falls below the threshold set by the HM Revenue and Customs
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Voluntary Contributions

Parents will be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following;

- a) entrance fees
- b) snacks and soft drinks other than school provided milk
- c) damage/vandalism/loss to and of school property

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that it is a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge. In addition the following will be made clear to parents;

- a) that the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay
- b) that registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the Principal.

Voluntary contributions will be used to;

- partly or wholly meet the cost of entrance fees
- meet the cost of providing snacks and soft drinks other than school provided milk
- partly or wholly meet the cost of damage/vandalism/loss to and of school property

This policy has been approved by the governing body and will be reviewed every two years or in the light of new guidance from the Department for Education or Local Authority.