

HAYES MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Be the Best We Can Be



Charging and Remissions Policy

Policy adopted on ...September 2023.....

Review DateSeptember 2024.....

Signed: HeadteacherMrs S Sivieri.....

Chair of GovernorsMrs M Brown.....

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for school activities, external lettings and extended school provision, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents. Guidance is based on the Education Act 1996: Sections 449-462.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of the School are responsible for determining the content of the policy and the head teacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the Head Teacher and Governing Body.

Definitions

Community Facilities – activities which the governors do not feel is of direct educational benefit to children at the school

Extended school provision – provision of childcare outside the standard school day where it is optional as to whether the child attends

External Lettings – letting to an organisation other than the school

Remission – where a charge is not payable, either in full or in part

Sinking Fund – a reserve put aside over a number of years to pay for major maintenance or renewal costs.

Prohibition of Charges

The Governing Body of the School recognise that the 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 an essential part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil, or the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (Wider Opportunities);
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- education provided on any trip that takes places during school hours
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- Transport provided in connection with an education visit or sporting event;
- 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/she has been prepared for that examination at the school;

Charges

- (a) board and lodging on residential visits (not to exceed the costs of the visit)
- (b) the proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside school hours ('optional extras') to meet the costs for:
 - (i) travel
 - (ii) materials and equipment
 - (iii) non-teaching staff costs
 - (iv) entrance fees
 - (v) insurance costs
- (c) individual or group tuition in the playing of a musical instrument
- (d) breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils
- (e) extra- curricular activities and school clubs
- (f) Letting of the school premises or grounds
- (g) Extended school care activities such as breakfast club, after school club, holiday clubs
- (h) Charges for materials or ingredients where the pupils wish to have the finished product

Consideration also needs to be given to:

- the proportion of the costs recovered where a charge is to be made;
- whether any remission is to extend beyond the statutory minimum;
- whether or not special consideration is to be given to hardship cases not contained within the exemptions this will be decided by the professional judgement of the Headteacher and where necessary the school governors;
- the education of any child will not suffer where the parents fail to pay the charge being levied by the school however learning goals may need to be achieved in a different way;
- the school budget where the level of voluntary contributions is insufficient to fund the visit or journey;
- any charge for a pupil activity should not exceed the actual cost. If further funds need to be raised to help in hardship cases, this must be voluntary
- for lettings, the charge should at least cover the cost, including:
 - Services (heat & light)
 - Staffing (security, caretaking & cleaning)
 - Administration
 - Wear & tear (sinking fund)

Remissions

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 pay only a contribution of charges for board and lodging costs during residential school trips. The relevant support payments are:

- a) Income Support;
- b) Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- c) Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- d) Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HMRC) does not exceed the statutory amount pertaining at the time

Note: anyone receiving Working Tax Credit regardless of income will not qualify.

Voluntary Payment

Parents will be invited to make a voluntary payment for the following:

- a) School trips/ visits
- b) food technology
- c) events

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request is for 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.
- c) That visits/ trips may have to be cancelled if the level of voluntary contribution does not cover the basic cost of the trip.

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