

Charging and Remissions Policy



Signed:

Date:

Review Date:

Our overall ambition in all we do is to ensure our pupils have excellent opportunities to develop into:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Introduction

The charging provisions of the 1988 Education Reform Act relate to all maintained schools whether L.A. or Grant Maintained. The provisions of the Act recognise the principle of free school education and also reflect the Government's view that the LA or the Governing Body should be able to charge parents for optional activities which are provided out of school hours.

School Policy

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities, including swimming, trips and residential experiences can make towards pupils' personal and social development.

The Governing Body 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.

Charges

- No child will be left out of an activity during school hours because his or her parents cannot or will not make a contribution of any kind.
- The Governing Body may invite parents to make voluntary contributions toward aspects of the school's work eg: transport in respect of swimming, ingredients and materials for cooking and design.
- The Governing body reserve the right to charge in full the board and lodging element of residential activities eg: Manor Adventure.
- Activities provided wholly or mainly outside normal school hours that are considered to be 'optional extras' and do not form part of the national Curriculum will be charged in full. The charge will be based in the actual cost of providing the activity divided by the number of pupils taking part. Any additional funds necessary will be on the basis of voluntary contributions or general fund raising activities.

General

- The Governing Body may, from time to time, amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made. Nothing in this Policy statement precludes the Governing Body from inviting parents to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of providing education for pupils.

Remissions

- Where a charge has been raised for board and lodging for educational at supported Outdoor Education & Language Centres, namely Glan Llyn (Urdd), then the LA will offer remission to eligible pupils, to a limit of one trip per pupil per annum.
- Pupils who are entitled to statutory remissions may, from time to time, be invited to represent their school or the County Borough on foreign exchange visits or takes part in special field courses or expeditions. In these circumstances, it is proposed that the Authority gives such individual cases discretionary consideration.
- The funds to be made available for remissions will be finite and based on an average of one journey per year for those qualified. The funds will not be delegated directly to schools' budgets. Schools will forward details of the entitlements to enable the appropriate reimbursement to be made. All other remission costs in respect of residential visits shall be borne by the school.
- Where a charge has been raised for the provision of music lessons or for hire of a musical instrument for use in those lessons and for personal practice the LA will offer remission for one course of lessons per annum, and the hire of one instrument per annum.
- Pupils who are entitled to remission are those whose parents are in receipt of:
 1. Job Seeker's Allowance (income based);
 2. Income Support;
 3. Immigration and Asylum-seekers allowance;
 4. Pension Credit.
 5. Child Tax Credit with an income less than £16,105 but not if parent/guardian is also in receipt of Working Tax.
- School remission policies should cover the remission of board and lodging charges on educational trips which;
 1. take place in school hours as defined; or
 2. are clearly defined within any of the following categories:-
 - The National Curriculum Programme of Study;
 - The syllabus of a prescribed public examination;
 - The National Curriculum requirements for Religious Education;

- as being an essential component which makes it necessary for all pupils within the class to attend and which satisfy the County Borough's rules and regulations relating to school journeys.
- The school will have the responsibility for determining whether a trip is mainly in or out of school hours. If a school has decided to charge for an activity which is outside of the range of activities for which charging is allowed, any remission costs will be borne by the school.

This policy is reviewed in line with Our Policy Document Cycle.