

MAYBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Charging and Remission Policy

Updated: Summer 2024





Maybury Primary School

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Charging and Remissions Policy

Mission

Our values-based school nurtures curiosity and creativity through an inspiring, broad and engaging curriculum, where learning is at the heart of all that we do. Our children learn to become resilient and self-assured in an environment where safety is outstanding. Everyone is challenged and encouraged to thrive and achieve as individuals, preparing them for their role as caring and active citizens in modern Britain.

Vision statement

Believe. Achieve. Succeed.

1. Introduction

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

Maybury Primary School aims to value each pupil as an individual and enable them to achieve their full potential through a wide variety of opportunities and experiences. This document sets out the school's policy for charging for the provision of this wide variety of opportunities and experiences. Any charges made by the school must meet the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1996. Whilst the intention is to apply the policy equally in order to promote fairness, every effort will be made to ensure that no child is prevented from participating because of financial circumstances.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449 to 462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements.

It's also based on guidance from the DfE on [statutory policies for schools and academy trusts](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions:

Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities

Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

The Local Advisory Committee (LAC)

The LAC has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

The LAC board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

4.2 Headteachers

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances that they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what we **cannot** charge for:

5.1 Education

- Admission applications
- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

5.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority (LA) has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

5.3 Residential visits

- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education

- Supply teachers, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carers wishes the child to own them
- Optional extras (see section 6.2)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school **and** the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus

6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The National Curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the LA or governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra that is to be charged for.

6.3 Music tuition

We can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

6.4 Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities that would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include:

School trips, sports events (not an exhaustive list)

There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

Breakfast, after-school and sports clubs, trips, experiences and residentials

Day Trips

- Charges levied for day trips will represent the reasonable cost of providing the trip.
- Where the trip occurs during the school day, parents will be asked for a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of their child's participation.
- Every effort will be made to ensure that the voluntary contributions are made but, if insufficient funding is received, the school reserves the right to cancel the trip.
- Once a trip has been paid for, there will be no reimbursement for absentees on the day.
- Where a child may be prevented from participating in an outing because of financial hardship, consideration should be given to reducing the voluntary contribution expected. Children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding may receive a discount on trips. Any shortfall is to be met from the School Fund.
- Where sponsorship or donations have been received towards the cost of the trips, it is for the school to decide how to use them. Contributions may be offset against the cost of the trip as a whole or used to reduce or remit the charge for individual children who would be unable to participate because of financial hardship.

- Children will be treated equally regardless of the amount of voluntary contribution made by their parents.

Experiences offered in School

- Each phase is responsible for providing enhanced learning experiences within school.
- The cost of providing these experiences is to be met by a voluntary contribution sought from parents of children within the phase who will benefit. The school will subsidise where possible from either the phase budget or school fund or pupil premium, where applicable,
- Where voluntary contributions are sought, the school reserves the right to cancel if insufficient funding is received.
- No child is to be prevented from participating because a voluntary contribution has not been received but parents will be encouraged to pay.
- Once a voluntary contribution has been made, there will be no reimbursement for absentees on the day.
- Children will be treated equally regardless of the amount of voluntary contribution made by their parents.

Residential Trips

- Charges levied for residential trips will represent the reasonable cost of providing the trip
- Children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding may receive a discount on trips.
- An initial deposit is usually requested for such residential trips with the remaining cost paid in instalments. This initial deposit is non-refundable should a child subsequently not participate in a trip. A request for the refund of any further payment must be made in writing by the parent and, if the cancellation is due to illness, a medical certificate may be required.
- Where sponsorship or donations have been received towards the cost of the trips, it is for the school to decide how to use them. Contributions may be offset against the cost of the trips as a whole or used to reduce or remit the charge for individual children who would be unable to participate because of financial hardship.
- Children will be treated equally regardless of the payment made by their parents.

Contribution to the School Fund

- The school fund exists to enhance the learning experiences of the children at Maybury Primary School. It could be used to provide, for example, visits from theatre companies, the educational workshops or curriculum related workshops.
- Contributions to the fund are made by local charities and commission from organisations using the school, fundraising and out of school activities.
- If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions it will be cancelled.
- The school may charge for clubs outside of normal school hours that are not part of the National Curriculum. The cost to be made for materials, resources or staff charges will not exceed the cost of the optional extras divided by the number of pupils participating.

9. Remissions policy

In some circumstances, the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Income Support

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit – provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Parents of Pupil Premium pupils may request assistance with charges in instances where parents are asked to contribute towards the cost of a school activity. Any parent who thinks they may qualify for Free School Meals and therefore Pupil Premium should contact the school office who can provide them with an up to date list of the criteria and provide further support in completing the necessary paperwork.

Parents of non-Pupil Premium pupils, who are in need of financial assistance are invited to apply in confidence to the Headteacher for partial or full remission of charges.