

Charging and Remissions Policy

In accordance with Sections 106-111 and 117-118 of the Education Reform Act 1988, the Governing Body make no charge for education or educational activities provided during school hours as part of the published curriculum. However, the Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities can make towards the personal and social education of pupils. The Governing Body therefore reserve the right to levy charges for the following activities arranged by the school:-

Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums
- activities which require transport expenses including swimming
- outdoor adventure activities
- visits to the theatre
- musical and drama events

Materials for practical lessons

Voluntary contributions or provision of goods in kind may be requested from parents for materials for practical lessons (Design Technology, Food Technology or other subject areas for example).

Residential visits (KS2)

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. Parents whose children are entitled to receive free school meals (not UIFSM), as a consequence of being in receipt of state benefits, are exempt from this charge.

Music tuition (KS2)

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the end of each academic year ready for the new one.

Swimming (KS2)

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in KS2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum for KS2 pupils. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons and a voluntary contribution towards costs. Parents whose children are entitled to receive free school meals (not UIFSM), as a consequence of being in receipt of state benefits, are exempt from this charge.

Acorns (Wrap Around Care) & Let's Get Cooking

The school offers extra-curricular activities, through Acorns, Let's Get Cooking after school. A charge for these sessions is made to the school, for staff costs and resources supplied. Currently after school sports clubs are provided free through the use of Sports Premium money.

Uniform

Uniforms sold through the school are at cost price, the school makes no profit from these items. School uniform colours have been selected so parents can have easy access to similar items at lower prices (e.g. from supermarkets) if they prefer to use these.

School uniform can be ordered through the link on the school website:

<http://studentuniform.co.uk/lhfs103>

Guidance on the creation of this document can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514619/Charging_for_school_activities.pdf

Monitoring Evaluating and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Headteacher and Finance Governors in consultation with staff on a regular basis and reviewed and evaluated annually.

Author		Creation Date
Northumberland County Council (model policy)		June 2000
Reviewed		Revision date
School Governors		19/6/03, 06/06, 27/3/08, 03/12/10, Feb 2011,
School Governors	Interim Governors Meeting - February 2012 Finance and Staffing Committee -July 2012, July 2013, July 2014, July 2015	
Committee One - Policies and Resources	September 2016, September 2017, November 2018, October 2019, Spring 2021, Autumn 2022, Autumn 2023	
Signed		