

# **Northside Governors Charging and Remissions Policy**

## **Introduction**

The Department for Education (DfE) has published advice on charging for school activities. It refers to the Education Act 1996 which sets out the law on charging for activities in maintained schools.

No charges can be made unless the governing body of the school or local authority has drawn up a charging policy giving details of the optional extras or board and lodging that they intend to charge for, and a remissions policy.

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, visits and residential experiences can make towards the personal and social education of the children

The Governors aim to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the children of the school and as additional optional activities

## **Purpose**

In order to ensure that correct procedures are followed and no child is excluded from a visit or journey because they cannot afford to pay, a clear charging and remission policy must be known and understood by all parents

## **Guidelines**

- 1 No charge can be made for any educational or related activity that takes place within school hours
- 2 No charge can be made for transport for costs for pupils travelling between school and where education is being carried out in school time

## **Governors reserve the right to levy charges for the following**

- 1 Board and lodging for residential trips of one or more nights away from home
- 2 Music tuition that is not prescribed as part of the National Curriculum. Charges will be made for music, instrumental hire and tuition
- 3 Transport, entrance fees and educational fees out of school hours. These are termed optional extras. The consent of parents and a willingness to meet extra charges will be sought before any bookings are finalised
- 4 Damage to or loss of books and or school equipment
- 5 Wilful damage to school property
- 6 In certain circumstances the school Premises may be hired per hour for approved functions, for example by the LA for training purposes. Any letting will be at the discretion of the Head teacher & reported to the Finance Committee.

Although there is no obligation on any family to pay, the Governors reserve the right to request voluntary contributions for the following

- 1 Activities during school hours including visiting theatre groups, day visits and school journeys. The contribution requested will not exceed the cost of the provision as no pupil should subsidise any other pupil
- 2 The cost of materials, ingredients, (or the provision of them by parents/carers) for the following subjects e.g. art and crafts, needlework or cookery etc when there is a finished product and the parent has indicated in advance that they wish to own the finished product. It will be the responsibility of the parent to let the school know that they do not wish to own the end product where the request for ingredients or materials are made

Funds to subsidise activities are limited and the Governors intend to monitor the situation carefully.

Where the parents of a child are in receipt of income support, jobseekers allowance, state pension credit or child tax credit the Governors will remit half the cost of board and lodgings for the residential activity that it organises for the child, if the activity is deemed to take place within the school hours, or where it forms part of the National Curriculum. In other circumstances, there may be cases of family hardship which make it difficult for children to take part in particular activities for which a charge is made. When arranging a chargeable activity, the Governing Body will invite parents to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. Authorisation of remission will be made by the Headteacher & reported to the Finance Committee.

The above policy is subject to review by the Governors as & when necessary.

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