

Written by: Carl Rogers
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Living and **Learning** with God by our side.

Whittington CE Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

Vision

At Whittington CE Primary School, we aim to provide children with a 'toolkit for life' so that they are able to 'live life in all its fullness' (*John 10:10*). We achieve this through a well-rounded education, that maximises the potential of all children. Charging for some school activities enables us to enhance the provision that we have available and ensures that children at our school never miss an opportunity for high-quality learning for financial reasons. We are, however, mindful of putting financial pressure on to our parents and aim to plan for manageable and well-timed enrichment activities for which we seek financial contribution.

Context

This policy takes guidance from the DFE Policy – 'Charging for School Activities' which has been recently revised and Local Authority guidance on school lettings. Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England. This guidance complements the information given in "A Guide to the Law for School Governors" (Chapter 23) and reflects the terms of the Education Act 1996. This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the School's Finance Committee and will be adjusted in line with new Government or Local Authority recommendations. It sets out the School's position on charges, remissions and lettings.

Voluntary Contributions and Responsibilities of Staff

Nothing in legislation prevents a Governing Body or Local Authority from asking for voluntary contributions that would benefit the School or any School activities and the School will invite parents and others from time to time to make voluntary contributions to enable the provision of activities and visits which may not otherwise be possible. If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, this will be made clear to parents at the outset. The Governing Body or Headteacher will make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution. No student will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. However, if insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, it may not go ahead. Staff organising visits should make this clear to parents. Staff organising a trip will make it clear to parents at the outset what their policy for allocating places on the visit will be.

Activities outside of normal lesson times and not within the National Curriculum (ranging from visits abroad to school matches) are classed as 'optional extras'. Parents may be asked to meet the full cost of these activities. In the case of residential experiences, every effort will be made to offer value for money. It is intended that School-based extracurricular activities should be free or very low cost. The School will do its best to offer assistance or remission of charges in any case where there is hardship.

For activities during normal School hours and/or within the National Curriculum, parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of the activity to enable it to go ahead. Each year, such visits are likely to include visits to museums, theatre trips etc. The costs of visits will vary accordingly.

When making requests for voluntary contributions to School funds, parents will not be made to feel pressured into paying as it is not compulsory.

Parents will be asked to meet the costs of private music tuition in full, where tuition is given either to an individual student or to students in small groups.

Charging Structure

For residential courses during the time of normal School hours, parents can be asked to meet the full cost of board and lodging, and to make a voluntary contribution towards any travel expenses. The School offer remissions for students whose parents receive the income support benefits, where it is still possible for the visit to go ahead. The School will do its best to offer assistance and remissions in any case where there is hardship.

Parents may be charged for some or all of the cost of damage to School property where this has been intentional. **Parents** will be expected to meet some or all of the cost for replacing lost or damaged books or equipment.

Activities and Visits

If the number of School sessions taken up by the visit is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half days spent on the visit, it is deemed to have taken place during normal School hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening). Whatever the starting and finishing times of the day, regulations require that a school day be divided into two sessions: a 'half day' means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during School hours. Activities during normal School hours may only involve a request for a voluntary contribution; parents may be charged an amount to cover the costs incurred to the School for activities mainly taking place outside of School hours.

Parents should be informed of the decision to ask for contributions at the planning stage of activities. Planned activities may be cancelled if financial support is not forthcoming. Parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards activities taking place during School time, or towards activities which are a necessary part of the National Curriculum. Parents will be asked to meet the full cost of optional extra activities that occur outside of normal School hours, where these activities are not a necessary part of the National Curriculum. Parents will be asked to meet the full cost of board and lodging, and to make a voluntary contribution towards travel expenses for residential visits which fall, in the main, during normal School sessions. Pupils whose parents are receiving the following benefits should not be prevented from taking part in any School activity or trip that is open to other pupils:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers' Allowance (IBJSA);
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed the limit set by HMR&C
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- any similar income related employment and support allowances introduced by the Government.

Any charge made in respect of individual students will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of students participating. It will not include an element of subsidy for any other students wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In 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;
- non-teaching staff;
- teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and
- the cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

Music Tuition

The law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, but music lessons are an exception

to this rule. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced a regulation- making power which allowed the Department for Children, Schools and Families to specify circumstances where charging can be made for music tuition. The new Regulations, which came into force in September 2007, provide students with greater access to vocal and instrumental tuition. Charges may now be made for teaching either an individual student or groups of any appropriate size (provided that the size of the group is based on sound pedagogical principles) to play a musical instrument or to sing. Charges may only be made if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s).

Extended Schools –

Whittington CE Primary School provides a term-time only Breakfast Club service for 3-11 year olds. Parents will be charged for use of the service and the session times and charges are as follows:

Breakfast club

7:30am – 8:40am: £5.00

8:00am – 8:40am: £3.00

8.30am - 8:40 am: £1.00 per child (no breakfast served)

After School Club (included, from 4:30pm, is a healthy 'light' tea)

3:10pm–6:00pm: £9.00

3:10pm–4:30pm: £2.00

3:10pm–5:00pm: £5.00

3:10pm–5:30pm: £7.00

If a child attends an after school activity club they can then join after school club at 4:30pm.

4:30pm–5:00pm: £3.00

4:30pm–5:30pm: £5.00

4:30pm–6:00pm: £7.00

Important Note:

Any sums payable by parents for optional extras such as unpaid extended school provision etc. to which they have agreed in writing, or for board and lodging shall be recoverable as a civil debt and may also be subject to late payment charges.

Late Payment Charges:

Charges will be levied at the higher of **£5.00 or 5%** (change as necessary) of the outstanding debt, to cover associated administration costs.

Scale additional of charges

Letting of rooms / site

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| School Hall | £10 per hour |
| Playing Field | £10 per session/event |



Subject to annual review

Any additional charges or caretaking work will be charged to the individual organisations required (e.g. late lock-ups/additional cleaning if necessary).

Photocopier charges

10p per copy (colour)
5p per copy (mono)
(reduced rates for large numbers of copies).

Telephone charges

5p per call

Approved By Governors:

Mark Fosbrook
Chair of Governors

Carl Rogers
Headteacher

Lettings Policy

The Governing Body of Whittington CE Primary School is committed to ensuring the efficient use of the school's premises and making them available for use by the local community. To this end they have adopted this lettings policy.

Policy

The Governing Body is required to ensure that any expenditure resulting from the use of school premises by external organisations does not fall on the delegated budget. Consequently a scale of charges for the use of accommodation has been produced and is reviewed by the Governing Body each year.

Authority is delegated by the Governing Body to the Headteacher to deal with requests for lettings of a routine nature. Where any prospective letting involves extended use of the premises (over a number of days/nights or after 12 midnight) or where the prospective hirer is not known to the Headteacher the Chairman of the Governing Body should be consulted. The attached lettings forms shall be used on all occasions.

Hirers are responsible for damage to premises, property or loss which occurs during or as a result of their letting and appropriate supervision arrangements should be in place for activities held in buildings or grounds.

The school maintains insurance cover for liabilities incurred by Governors with regards to lettings, but insurance for liabilities incurred by hirers is the responsibility of hirers.

Hirers are responsible for removing or otherwise disposing of litter and rubbish resulting from their use of the premises or grounds.

No smoking or drinking of alcohol is permitted by individuals on the school premises.

A minimum of two weeks notice is required by the school of all lettings. The standard lettings forms should be completed by the school and signed by the hirer in advance of the letting.

Where hirers use equipment that is the property of the school or catering contractor the Headteacher / Contractors representation shall satisfy themselves that the hirer is capable of using such equipment. Notice of use to be made at the time of application. No equipment to be used unless agreed with the school.

24 hours notice to be given for any cancellation or change of time. The full charge will be levied if this is not adhered to.

APPLICATION FOR HIRE OF EDUCATIONAL PREMISES OR GROUNDS.
 (Including Kitchens)

School

Name of Applicant or Organisation.....

(In CAPITAL letters)

Name and address for correspondence

Purpose for which letting is requested

Dates and times of proposed letting:

| Day | Date | Month | Year | From am/pm | To am/pm | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|-------|------|------------|----------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Accommodation requested (specify) | | | | | | £ | p |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Equipment(specify) | | | | | | | |
| Caretaking and Cleaning | | | | | | | |
| Catering Services | | | | | | | |

| |
|---|
| Hiring for a series of dates, not exceeding one school term |
| Dates and times of proposed letting: From.....am/pm to Ondaydate Until.....daydate(inclusive) For..... (number of occasions)during the Autumn/Spring/Summer Term |

- I /we agree (1) to pay the Governor's charge on demand
- (2) that use of accommodation shall be in accordance with the conditions given.

Signed Date

Position in Organisation

Conditions relating to Letting of Educational Premises, Grounds and Kitchens

Hirers will be held responsible for any damage to premises, property, equipment or loss which occurs during or as a result of their use.

Hirers must ensure that premises and grounds are left in a clean and tidy state after their use, that all litter is removed and that where items of furniture have been moved they are put back in position at the end of the letting.

The school has insurance cover for liabilities which occur in school hours as a result of lettings, **but personal accident insurance and any insurance for liabilities incurred by the hirers are the responsibility of the hirers themselves.**

Hirers must ensure that full supervision is provided during lettings, especially of playing fields and the Authority will not be responsible for any claims which may arise as a result of negligence on the part of the hirers or their supervisors.

The Governing Body reserve the right to cancel letting arrangements, without notice if necessary. This will be done only in exceptional circumstances, in the event, for example, of premises being required for a statutory purpose, such as an election. **Use of the grounds may, however, be cancelled by the Head at any time should he/she consider that they are unfit for use.**

Failure to comply with the school's conditions may result in the refusal of future requests to hire premises or grounds.

Kitchen – a high standard of hygiene must be adhered to at all times and the kitchen equipment must be left in as hygienic a condition as after normal use by the catering service.

The hirers or outside caterers must not use catering foodstuffs, crockery or other light equipment or cleaning materials.

'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace.' Corinthians.

WHITTINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Information and Instructions to Organisers of Events held on School Property.

Organisation

.....

Event

.....

.....

Name of Organiser

..... Date

.....

.....

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 the School is required to provide you with the following information.

1. The area/room allocated for your activity is
2. Access is gained to this area from
3. The nearest telephone is located
4. The Caretaker's telephone number is
5. The telephone number of the Officer in Charge is
6. The First Aid box is located
7. Potential Health and Safety Hazards

Instructions to Organisers

1. In the event of fire **immediately** dial 999 for the Fire Brigade.
2. **Evacuate** all your party from the area to a safe place. Check your register, await Fire Brigade.

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3. **Immediately** thereafter telephone Caretaker and/or Officer in Charge.
4. In the event of an accident, follow First Aid procedures, if **serious** telephone 999 for Ambulance.
5. **Immediately** thereafter telephone Officer in Charge (inform Caretaker if on the premises). All accidents must be reported.
6. Obtain names and addresses of at least two witnesses where possible.
7. If an accident has occurred whilst utilising the school's equipment do not touch or move the equipment until a school representative has examined it.

Notes to Organisers.

1. The area allocated to you must be reached by the most direct route from the access point indicated, and members of your party must not enter other rooms or areas, other than to utilise cloakroom or toilet facilities.
2. In the event that the school has agreed to permit the use of facilities for the purpose of preparing beverages or food, only such equipment shall be used as is necessary for the preparation of these, and the activity must be under the supervision of the organiser or some other person.
3. Any equipment made available must be used strictly in accordance with standard practice and under the supervision of the Organiser.
4. Organisers are reminded that the responsibility for the safety of their party rests with the School and with the Organisers jointly.