



# **PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY**

**Dated: June 2024**

**Review date: June 2026**

**Headteacher.....**

**Chair of Governors.....**

## Introduction

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [Education Act 1996](#), sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools in England.

## Purposes

1. This Charging and Remissions Policy covers charges relating to educational and non-educational activities.
  - a. School visits, which are planned to support classroom work, offer the pupils firsthand experience of topics being studied. This firsthand experience is an invaluable aid to the learning process. Visits also offer opportunities for the development of confidence, independence, responsibility for self and others, and a sense of adventure, which are not available in the same way in school.
  - b. Extended visits over several days undertaken by the older pupils offer a very special opportunity for social, physical, emotional, and intellectual development outside the usual home/school environment, which would not otherwise be possible.
  - c. Practical activities such as cookery, and work in art/craft and design technology, are important, and offer special opportunities for active learning and the development of cross-curricular skills.
2. The following guidelines set out the financial arrangements, which will apply when the above activities are under consideration.

### 1. General Principles

The school wishes to provide the best possible educational opportunities available within the funds allocated by the Department for Education (DfE). The law states clearly that education during normal school hours is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents/carers, and the school fully endorses that principle. It is recognised, however, that many educationally valuable activities will be dependent on financial contributions in whole or in part from parents/carers. Without that financial support, the school would find it impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of educational programme provided for pupils. Where specialists are involved, or activities are organised to further enhance the curriculum provision parents may be asked for a voluntary financial contribution.

The school's concern is to keep financial contributions for additional activities reasonable and kept to a minimum to ensure as far as possible, that all students can take part, regardless of their circumstances. Any calculated contribution will not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity and will be divided equally by the number of pupils participating. Donations from the Parent Association, Friends of the school, or any outside organisation will be taken into consideration when calculating the cost. There will be no levy on those who contribute, to support those who can't or won't.

The school will make clear the criteria to allocate places on any activity before requesting any contribution from parents/careers as part of any information sent out to them. Explaining if insufficient funds are available for an activity requiring a

voluntary contribution, it may be necessary to cancel the activities, and parents/carers will be informed of this when the contribution is requested, and any monies returned promptly. The school will decide on an appropriate level of income necessary for the activities to take place or insufficient funds to proceed with it in full.

The main exception to this guidance is music tuition covered under The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007, which sets out the conditions for charging for playing a music instrument, including vocal tuition. The school will clarify this when informing parents/carers. As this is not chargeable if part of any curriculum activity.

## 2. Charges relating to Educational Activities

Type of Activity	Request from parents/carers
Day trip (curriculum) Visits during school time required for curriculum reasons, or for Religious Education	Voluntary contribution
Day trip (optional, outside of hours) Visits which are not specifically required for curriculum reason or Religious Education, taking place outside school time	Charge for Allowable Costs*
Optional Activities (outside of hours) For example – cookery club after school	Charge for Allowable Costs*
Residential Trips **	Charge for Allowable Costs*
Classroom Materials (to own) Where the parent has indicated in advance that they would like to own the finished product	Charge for Allowable Costs*
Classroom Materials (for practical activities such as cookery, DT etc.)	Voluntary Contribution

\* Allowable costs include:

1. The pupil's travel and subsistence costs
2. Materials, books, instruments, and other equipment
3. Teaching and support staff if employed to accompany the visit
4. Entrance fees to museums, castles, theatres etc.

\*\* Charges will be made for board and lodging, except for those pupils entitled to remissions – see section 4. Parents will be charged for all allowable costs\* when the number of school sessions missed by the pupils' totals half or more of the number of half days taken up by the activity. In such cases parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

### **3. Letter requesting voluntary contributions**

The letter requesting a voluntary contribution will:

- Explain the nature of the proposed activity.
- Explain its value in educational terms.
- Indicate the level of contribution required.
- Emphasise that there is no obligation to contribute, and that no pupil will be omitted from the activity because his/her parents/guardians are unwilling or unable to pay.
- Indicate the activity may not take place if not enough contributions are received.

### **4. Remissions[PR1]**

The school is allocated specific funding for each child who is eligible for free school meals (or have been eligible in the past 6 years). This funding can be used to pay for extra-curricular activities for those children.

Contributions may be reduced or waived for pupils whose parents make a request to the headteacher.

### **5. Charges relating to Non-Educational Activities**

#### **Breakage and Fines**

A charge will be levied in respect of willful damage, neglect, or loss of school property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books, or materials), the charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team may decide.

This also applies to third party property where the repair or replacement cost has been recharged to the school. In such cases the full cost will be passed onto the individuals involved.

#### **School Trips and Visits**

Should there be a surplus balance on a school trip or visit after all expenditure has been taken into account, if this amount is in excess of £5.00 per pupil or 5% of the initial cost (whichever is the higher). In these cases, the funds should be refunded equally to the parents.

## Residential Trips

The school is permitted to charge for the cost of board and lodgings during residential school trips. This cost must not exceed the actual cost of the provision.

Where the trip takes place wholly or mainly during school hours, children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of these charges.

The governors and headteacher will discount *up to 50%* of the above charges relating to board and lodgings on residential trips, for children whose parents fall into the following categories. The costs are to be borne by the school from their Pupil Premium funds and may be used to make up wholly or part of this discount.

A child may be eligible for free school meals if a parent is in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Child Tax Credit, and your annual income is less than £19,995
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, and your annual household income is £7,400 per annum (£616 per month) or less after tax, and not including any benefits.

If your child is currently receiving free school meals, and the above criteria no longer apply, your child's eligibility is protected, and they will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit Roll Out.

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and the **Governing[PR2] Body**.

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