



Charging & Remissions Policy Draft

	Date	Signature
Discussed at Staff meeting		
Discussed at Finance & Personnel		
FGB:		

Review Date 2021

Cold Harbour CE Primary School
Policy Ethos Statement

Ensuring that our children have every opportunity to develop the confidence and capacity to become successful, lifelong learners is a key task for us.

Cold Harbour CE Primary School is a school committed to 'Growing, Learning, Achieving Together' with strong Christian values underpinning this.

- ✓ **Growing** in confidence, faith, personal awareness and ability.
- ✓ **Learning** in creative, fun, technologically assisted and investigative ways.
- ✓ **Achieving** as individuals, teams and as a whole school community across a diverse range of opportunities.
- ✓ **Together** through our shared Christian values of tolerance, faith, guidance, respect and nurture.

This policy will clearly define how the procedures and opportunities in school will enable all children to achieve our key aims.

Charging Policy
Cold Harbour CE Primary School

1. Introduction

This policy aims to define the school's position with respect to charging for school activities during and out of school hours. Cold Harbour School endorses the principles of the 1988 Education Act in maintaining the right to free education for all children; however, the act allows us to request voluntary contributions to broaden children's educational experience.

2. Basic Principles

No charge can be made for education during school hours. The definition of 'education' includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by the Local Education Authority or the school to carry pupils between the school and the activity. 'School hours' are those when the school is actually in session, and do not include the break in the middle of the day.

School trips, visits and practical activities enhance the pupils' learning and broaden their knowledge and experience. These are undertaken with the voluntary contributions of parents. No pupil will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents cannot or will not make a voluntary contribution, although the school reserves the right to cancel an activity if insufficient voluntary contributions are forthcoming.

3. Optional extras

Charges may be made for some activities that are known as 'optional extras'. Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge can be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment.

If a charge is to be made for a particular type of activity, for example optional extras, parents will be informed how the charge will be worked out and who might qualify for help with the cost (or even get it free).

Optional extras are:

- education provided outside of school time that is not: a) part of the national curriculum; b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or c) part of 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 local authority/governing body have 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 (for example breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions). 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;
 - the cost of buildings and accommodation;
 - 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 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 must not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. It must not therefore include an element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents 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. Therefore, no charge can be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

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 prerequisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

4. Voluntary Contributions

Parents may be invited to make voluntary contributions to extend the value of school funds. If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents, this will be explained at the planning stage. If a planned activity has to be cancelled any monies received will be returned.

From time to time, it may also be necessary to make a small charge for items such as ingredients in food technology or materials for Design and Technology. Parents will be asked to make voluntary contributions to school trips, visits or for practical activities. These contributions will not exceed the actual cost.

If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the governing body or head teacher will make this clear to parents at the outset.

It is important to note that no child will be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it must be cancelled.

If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child must still be given an equal chance to go on the visit.

5. Music Tuition

In general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to that rule. Charges can be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, including vocal tuition.

Charges may now be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or to groups of any size, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent. Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff who provide the tuition.

The current charge for peripatetic lessons is based on the hourly rate provided by the Music Co-op (Pro-rata). Lessons may not be equally divided amongst the three terms. There will be no refunds for missed lessons.

Charging may not be made if the teaching is either an essential part of the national curriculum, or is provided under the first access to the key stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme.

No charge may be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22(l) of the Children Act 1989).

6. Transport

Schools do not charge for:

- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school; and
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

7. Residential Activities

No charge is made for education (school staff) or for the cost of travel in connection with a residential activity taking place largely during school time. However voluntary contributions may be requested. Charges will be made to cover board and lodging.

Parents 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 that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's annual gross income does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family's income must be less than £7,400 per year – after tax and not including any benefits)

Where charges are to be made by the governing body for optional extras, parents may receive a remission for the whole or part of the charge.

8. Breakages

In cases of wilful or malicious damage to equipment or breakages, or loss of school books on loan to children, the headteacher in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body may decide it right to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Finance and Personnel Committee.