

# St Martin's CE Primary School

**Friendship Love Honesty Hope Respect Responsibility**

*A place of spirituality, diversity and opportunity;  
Inspiring all, flourishing together.*



## Charging and Remissions Policy

Policy written by:	Mrs B McManus
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## **Purpose**

We believe that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) regardless of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered and, at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

This policy has been informed by "A Guide to the Law for School Governors" and the DfE guidance "Planning" and "Extended Schools".

## **Roles & Responsibilities of the Headteacher, Staff and Governors**

The Headteacher, staff and governors will ensure that the following applies:

### **1. No charges will be made for:**

- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment).
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education.
- Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments (or singing) if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination resit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the resit(s) at the school.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational trip.
- After School activities, which do not form part of 'wrap around care' provision.

### **2. Charges may be made for:**

#### **a) Activities outside school hours**

- Non-residential activities (other than those listed in 1 above) which take place outside school hours, but only if the majority of the time spent on that activity takes place outside school hours (time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours).
- Breakfast/After school clubs which form part of 'wrap around care' ( child care provision offered in excess of normal school hours).

## **b) Residential activities**

- Board and lodging costs (but only those costs) of residential trips deemed to take place during school time - The charge will not exceed the actual cost Remission for category A (refer to section 3).
- However, pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see point 3 below) may not be charged for board and lodging costs.
- Residential trips deemed to take place outside school time (other than for those activities listed in 1 above). If the number of school sessions on a residential trip is equal to or greater than 450 percent of the number of half days spent on the trip it is deemed to have taken place during school hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening).

Whatever the starting and finishing times of the school day, regulations require that the school day is divided into two sessions. A “half day” means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day. When a trip is arranged, parents will be notified of the policy for allocating places.

## **c) Music Tuition**

- The cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument or singing, where the tuition is an optional extra for an individual pupil or groups of up to four pupils. Charges will not exceed the actual cost (per pupil) of provision, and parental consent will be obtained before a charge is made.

## **d) Materials/books/instruments/equipment**

- Charges will/may be made for any materials, books, instruments, or equipment where a parent wishes for example, a clay model to take home – a charge to cover the cost of clay.

## **e) School dinners**

- The cost of school dinners for Y3-Y6 pupils – these should be paid in advance on our online system.
- However, pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see point 3 below) will not be charged for school dinners.

## **3. Families qualifying for remission or help with charges**

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged pupils, the Governing Body has agreed that some activities and visits where charges can legally be made will be offered at no charge or a reduced charge to parents in particular circumstances. This remissions policy sets out the circumstances in which charges will be waived.

Criteria for qualification for remission are given below.

## **Category A**

Parents in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- 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 HM Revenue and Customs) does not exceed the sum given in the Revenue and Customs rules)
- Guaranteed State Pension

Additional categories of parents may claim help with some costs in some circumstances.

## **4. Additional Considerations**

The Governing Body recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end we will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

- We have established a system for parents to pay by installments.
- When an opportunity for a trip arises at short notice, it will be possible to arrange to pay by installments beyond the date of the trip.
- We acknowledge that offering opportunities on a "first pay, first served" basis discriminates against pupils from families on lower incomes and we will avoid that method of selection.

## **Arrangements for Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Financial Committee of the Governing Body will monitor the impact of this policy by receiving on a termly basis a financial report on those activities that resulted in charges being levied, the subsidies awarded (without giving names) and the source of those subsidies. It will seek to evaluate the impact of the school's extended services on those children most in need of additional support.