



Caedmon Community Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

Introduction

The Head Teacher and Governing Body recognises the value of providing a wide range of experiences to enrich and extend pupils' learning and to contribute to their personal development. The Head Teacher and Governing Body aims to promote and provide such experiences for the pupils of the school, both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and as additional optional activities. However, many of these activities have an associated cost and cannot be provided unless voluntary contributions are received or parents are charged for the cost.

This policy will set out the circumstances in which charges will or will not be made for school activities and when charges may be waived in order to ensure that all pupils have an equal opportunity to benefit from school visits, curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Statement

The policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1996. Where 'parent' is referred to this will include adults with a responsibility for the pupil.

We aim:-

- To make school activities accessible to all pupils regardless of family income
- To encourage and promote external activities which give added value to the curriculum
- To provide a process which allows activities to take place at a minimum cost to parents, pupils and the school
- To respond to the wide variations in family income while not adding additional unexpected burdens to the school budget

Legislation – Educations during School Hours

The DfE in its guidance to school Governors states that "education provided during school hours much be free. The definition of 'education' includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by school to carry pupils between school and an activity". It goes on to advise that "although schools cannot charge for school time activities, they can still invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions (in cash or in kind)".

When additional costs are incurred by Caedmon Community Primary School to enhance the curriculum opportunities for the pupils, parents may be requested to make voluntary contributions. However, no pupil will be left out of an activity because his or her parents cannot or will not make a contribution of any kind.

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Education outside School Hours

The DfE in its guidance to school Governors states that “Parents can only be charged for activities that happen outside school hours, when these activities are not a necessary part of national curriculum or religious education. No charge can be made for activities that are an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination. Charges may be made for other activities that happen outside school hours if parents agree to pay. The Education Reform Act 1988 described activities, which can be charged for as ‘optional extras’.

Remissions

To ensure that access to activities reflects intentions, Caedmon Community Primary School will implement the following Remissions Policy. The fundamental aim of this policy is to ensure that all pupils gain fully from everything that the school is able to offer them and is based on an understanding of the relationship between low income, entitlement and access.

This policy takes into account the very real and persistent difficulties which people on low income have in meeting the costs of educational activities for their children.

Where parents are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Support under parent IV of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999 or Child Tax Credit (provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received), the Governing Body will observe its statutory requirement to remit partial cost of board and lodgings for any residential activity that the school organised for the pupil if the activity is deemed to take place within school hours.

There may be cases of family hardship which make it difficult for pupils to take part in other 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 Head Teacher in consultation with the chair of Governors.

Data Protection of Pupils and Families

Teachers will ensure that these children are not publicly identified and stigmatised. This is particularly important as the fear of stigmatisation is often a key element in the non-take up of Free School Meals. This will be accomplished by developing methods of collecting voluntary charges or dinner money, which do not identify children who do not contribute.

Contributions

As far as is possible Caedmon Primary School will continue not to charge for activities. In a small amount of case voluntary contributions may be requested to help with providing activities even though they may be part of the normal school day or part of the National Curriculum. If voluntary contributions are requested for an activity it should be clearly understood that there is no obligation to contribute and that if the parent is unable or unwilling to pay, the child will not be excluded from the activity. If sufficient contributions are not received the activity may be cancelled.

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Charges

The Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge for the activities and items detailed below:

- Nursery additional sessions outside of the universal or extended entitlement (Fees are reviewed annually in line with the Nursery admissions policy).
- Educational visits which are not part of the school curriculum or are outside the school day (i.e. residential)
- After school clubs
- Music Tuition if it is not required for the national curriculum and is provided for an individual pupil or for groups of pupils even if such tuition takes place during school hours. Parental agreement and a signed contract will be obtained before the tuition is provided
- Damage to school property – the cost of replacing any item, such as a broken window or defaced, damaged or lost book, where this is a result of a pupil's behaviour

Residential Activity

The DfE in its guidance to school Governors states that "For a residential activity taking place largely during school time, or essential to the education provided at the school, no charge may be made for either the education or the cost of the travel. However, charges will be made for board and lodging in these circumstances, except for pupils who are receiving Income Support or Family Credit. The Head Teacher will tell all parents of the right to claim free activities if they are in receipt of these benefits." A voluntary contribution will be requested by the school for such activities. (Caedmon Community Primary School will follow the relevant legislation as contained in the Education Reform Act 1988: Section 106 – 111, 117, and 118. The guidance is contained in the DCSF circular 2/89: Charges for School Activities)

After School Clubs

A voluntary contribution of £1 per week is requested from parents for those clubs where we have employed an external provider to deliver the sessions.

Nursery Additional Sessions

Additional sessions are subject to availability.

Each session of 3 hours will be charged at £10.00 per session. This charge will be reviewed annually. Additional sessions must be booked 2 weeks in advance in agreement with the school office. Parents will be invoiced on the 1st of each month for those sessions booked in for the month ahead. Payment will be expected within 7 days of the invoice.

Should parents wish to cancel any booked additional sessions, 2 weeks notice is required and this should be done in writing / by email to caedmoncommunityprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk. We reserve the right to charge for any sessions should parents not provide written notice.

Once additional sessions have been allocated they will continue to be included in the termly session timetable unless:

1. Parents have given 2 weeks written notice to cease the additional sessions

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2. The child leaves our Nursery.
3. Payment for additional sessions has not been made within the payment terms.
4. The child has not been attending the additional sessions regularly (whether sessions have been paid for or not).

If a child is absent due to sickness, refunds are not available for absence. (Unfortunately, school costs do not diminish if your child is ill).

In the case of prolonged unexpected absences e.g. serious illness, fees will be refunded at the discretion of the Governing Body.

Photo Copying

Any photocopying that is requested by parents relating to their child, under the 'Freedom of Information Act', will be charged at 10p per sheet and 20p for any colour printing.

Private Fees

Any report or data that is requested on a child for the purpose of a third-party private assessment requested by a parent (e.g. Mid-year pupil progress report for solicitors, private psychologist reports or solicitor reports) will be charged at an agreed rate by the Head Teacher in discussion with the chair or vice-chair of Governors. This rate will include a cost for staff time to sort and collate the relevant information (not less than £10 per hour) as well as photocopying charges (not less than 10p per sheet) and postage.

The Governing Body may, from time to time, amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made.

Nothing in this policy statement precludes the Governing Body from inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of providing education for pupils.

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