



Policy for Charging and Remissions

- **This document is the policy for the Charging & and Remissions at Greatstone Primary School**
- **This policy was reviewed and adopted during the Autumn Term 2017 after consultation with Staff & Governors**
- **It was approved by the Governing Body in Term 2 2017.**
- **The Document will be reviewed annually.**
- **Next Review Autumn 2018.**

Greatstone Primary School Charging and Remission Policy

Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made

Legislation and guidance

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

Definitions

- Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

Staff

Our staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The senior leadership team will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out **what the school cannot charge for**:

Education

- Admission applications
- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

Transport

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

Residential visits

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

Where charges can be made

Below we set out **what the school can charge for**.

Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional extras (see below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, the school can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - 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 board has 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 (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When 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 (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- 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 will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but 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.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

Music tuition

The school can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, 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 giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include:

School Trips

Sports Activities

There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

Remissions for residential visits

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Universal credit in prescribed circumstances
- 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 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,105
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008

Nursery Fees Policy

- Parents/Carers will receive an invoice detailing the number of sessions and lunch top-ups the child attends and the amount due.
- All fees and dinner money must be paid via the ParentMail on-line payment service
- Fees to be paid half-termy in advance. (With prior agreement, alternative payment methods may be arranged)
- **Payment is to be made within the first seven days of receiving the bill**
- If payment is late a charge of **£5.00 per week** will be incurred
- Non-payment of fees will result in the child losing their place at the Nursery. Children in receipt of Government funding will be restricted to funded sessions only.
- The Nursery reserves the right to refuse entry to any child with unpaid fees. Non-attendance with no contact for 4 weeks or more will result in the child's place being withdrawn.
- All session fees and lunch top-ups are payable, even if the child does not attend Nursery for any reason.
- Children who miss sessions due to illness or annual holiday are not entitled to replacement sessions.
- For those children who are in receipt of either FF2 or Early Years Funding (15hrs per week) there are 3 options for accessing nursery care. They are:
 - **Option 1** Your child can attend Nursery for two full days and one morning or afternoon session and no fees would be payable as this would be covered by their FF2 or EY funding.
 - **Option 2** Your child's first 15hrs would be covered by FF2 or EY funding and no fees would be payable.
 - **Option 3** Your child can continue with the current fees policy where if they attend for three full days, their sessions would be covered by FF2 or EY Funding but there would be a £4 top-up fee for each lunch session attended.
- Sessions in excess of the funded allowance will be charged at the normal rate.
- Any child/ children collected late will incur a £1.00 per five minutes charge.
- School dinners should be paid for weekly and any balance due must be paid by the last day of term or we will be unable to continue to supply your child with a cooked meal until the outstanding amount is paid.
- **All outstanding bad debts will be passed to the Chair of School Governors who will forward the matter to the Small Claims Court for collection.**

Monitoring arrangements

The Headteacher monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body Finance Committee.