

Durham Dales Federation

Hamsterley, Rookhope,
St John's Chapel & Wearhead Primary
Schools



Charging and Remissions Policy

Head Teacher's Signature	
Chair of Governors' Signature	
Date	October 2023
Review Date	October 2025 (or earlier in the event of changes in legislation) Revised March 2024

The Governors have produced a Charging and Remission Policy for the Durham Dales Federation based on the *Education Act 1996* and *Charging for school activities 2018*. The basic principle of the 1996 Education Act provides a free education for children within the limits set by the National Curriculum.

This includes: *all activities inside school hours and on school premises; visits where half or more of the time is inside school hours; residential visits where the number of School time sessions outnumber the other half days.*

Some valuable aspects of education; however, fall outside such limits and these include *instrumental and vocal music tuition that is not part of a public exam or the National Curriculum; activities wholly outside School hours; residential visits where the number of School sessions is less than the other half days. (Board and lodging may be charged for except where parents receive particular state benefits).*

Charging for activities during school hours

- Instrumental and vocal music tuition delivered by the DCC music service will be charged for, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parents or guardians. These charges may not exceed the cost of provision, including the cost of the staff who provide the tuition. Eligible pupils may receive reduced price tuition.
- There may be a charge for board and lodging costs for residential visits which will not exceed the actual cost. Parents or guardians who can prove they are eligible to receive certain benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodgings.
- Provision of additional hours in our governor-led pre-schools at **Wearhead and St John's Chapel Primary Schools**.

Summary of costs:

Additional hours for a 2-year-old - £7-15 per hour

Additional hours for a 3-year-old- £4-75 per hour

Preschool lunches- £3-00 per day (increasing to £3-37 from 1/4/24)

Charging for activities outside school hours

Charges may be made for education provided outside of school time that is not:

- part of the national curriculum;
- part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or
- part of religious education.

Hamsterley Primary School offers the following out of hours' provision:

- Breakfast club 7:30-8:45- £3 per day
- Breakfast club 8:00-8:45- £2-50 per day
- After school club 3:30-5:30 £7-00 per day
- After school club 3:30-4:30 £3-50 per day

St John's Chapel Primary School offer the following out of hours' provision:

- Breakfast club 8:00 – 8:50 at a cost of £2-50 per day
- After school club 3:20 – 4:30pm at a cost of £3-50 per session.

The Durham Dales Federation acknowledges the EEF research outcomes with regard to outcomes for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

There are wider benefits from regular physical activity in terms of physical development, health and wellbeing as well as other potential benefits have been reported such as improved attendance. Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds may be less likely to be able to benefit from sport clubs and other physical activities outside of school due to the associated financial costs (e.g. equipment). By providing physical activities free of charge, schools give pupils access to benefits and opportunities that might not otherwise be available to them. Some arts activities have been linked with improvements in specific outcomes. For example, there is some evidence of the impact of drama on writing and potential link between music and spatial awareness. Wider benefits such as more positive attitudes to learning and increased wellbeing have also consistently been reported.

Discounted places are available for eligible pupils at breakfast and after school clubs, to enable them to access benefits and opportunities that might not otherwise be available. Concessionary places can be arranged by contacting the school administrator.

Voluntary contributions

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, visits and residential experiences can make towards pupils' personal and social education. Across the Durham Dales Federation, we aim to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as optional activities. In order to provide these activities, it may be necessary for the governing body to ask for a voluntary contribution from parents. Where this is deemed to be necessary, school will make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution, however the activity might be cancelled should significant numbers of children not contribute the full or part costs of an activity. No child will be excluded if a voluntary contribution is not made. Any case of financial hardship should be referred to the Executive Headteacher, in complete confidence.