

Hamsterley Primary School



School Charging and Remissions Policy

Date written: (September 2021)

Date agreed and ratified by Governing Body: (October 2021)

Date of next review: (Sept 2022)

Introduction

This policy covers our charging policy for all additional services provided before or after normal school hours. It also addresses our policy regarding activities during, what would normally be considered, 'closed periods' – holidays and weekends.

All services are provided on the understanding that they can be withdrawn, if they are no longer viable, through lack of interest.

The policy also addresses the issue of authorised educational activities and visits during normal school hours and as part of the educational provision.

Breakfast Club and After School Care

We provide additional childcare both pre and post school day. Our breakfast club starts at 7.30 a.m. and must be pre-booked. All children attending Breakfast Club are recorded on a daily register.

After School Care must be pre-booked, for child safeguarding reasons, any changes to normal going home arrangements must be notified in advance. After school care can be accessed until 4.30 p.m. or 5.30 p.m. but we must be notified in advance which end time is required.

Breakfast Club and After School Care is charged at the prevailing rate and is added to ParentPay accounts at the end of each week.

After School Clubs

The school aims to provide a wide range of after school extra curricular activities. A fee is charged for school staff run clubs to cover costs of resources and by external providers who run some of our clubs. The school pays these fees but recoups them via a charge to pupils. The school subsidises the cost of sports based clubs via the Sports Premium. Parents are encouraged to pay for clubs in advance and in block payments to reduce administration costs. However, fees will be reimbursed if the provider cancels a session.

School visits, activities and events

As part of the statutory provision of education, the school will arrange trips and visits to local events, activities and educational amenities. Parents will be informed, in advance and be invited to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the trip.

Educational visits are designed to enhance the children's learning, understanding and enjoyment of the curriculum. However they are usually expensive and without voluntary contributions the frequency and number of visits will be limited.

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.

The school reserves the right, where sufficient contributions are not received, to cancel the activity.

The school will seek to raise additional funds, wherever possible, to totally or partially subsidise educational visits.

Recreational or voluntary events will not be subsidised by the school and will be totally reliant on payments by parents.

Parents are encouraged, when asked, to provide materials for practical subjects, but no child will be disadvantaged because of parents' inability/reluctance to provide such materials. Where necessary, school will pay the cost of this.

Parents may be requested to replace school equipment, books, etc. which have been lost by their child.

Wilful damage to school buildings or property by a pupil may be charged to parents.

Extraordinary requests

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.

Remissions

To ensure that access to activities is fairly available, the 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. Although schools cannot charge for most aspects of day or residential visits, the DfE guidance explains that nothing in legislation prevents a school from asking for voluntary contributions. Furthermore, the CfBT Education Trust (Confederation of British Teachers UK) says that although parents in receipt of some benefits are exempt from paying their children's board and lodging charges on

residential trips, they should still be invited to contribute to the other costs associated with an educational visit, for example, transport.

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 and where necessary in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

Where a child qualifies for Free School Meals, arrangements will be made by the school to offer a reduced rate for residential visits and music tuition and the school will use Pupil Premium funding to subsidise the cost of these activities.

No child will ever be denied access to curriculum based visits or trips on the grounds of their parents / carers inability or unwillingness to contribute.

Data Protection of pupils and families.

Teachers will ensure that children in receipt of subsidised provision 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.

Cutting the Cost of the School Day

At Hamsterley Primary we are acutely aware that an increasing number of families are struggling financially. With the overall cost of living; rising household budgets are hard for everyone and we know there is little money to spare.

School costs can put pressure on low-income families and put children at risk of missing out on opportunities and feeling different, excluded and unhappy. Cutting the cost of the school day involves children and young people, parents/carers and school staff in identifying financial barriers and taking action to remove them.

Cost of the School Day involves children, parents and school staff in identifying cost barriers and in taking action to remove them.

At Hamsterley Primary School we aim to:

- Provide financial support like free meals
- Ensure that anything with a cost is as affordable as possible (e.g. uniform, trips)
- Support children and parents to afford it (e.g. flexible instalments for trips, signposting to cheapest uniform supplier)
- Cover costs, subsidising and providing sibling discounts where possible
- Fundraise which doesn't always ask families to contribute
- Let parents know what help is available and what support there is to access it
- Look at the school year with affordability in mind – spacing events and activities out so that lots of costs don't come all at once.
- Ensure equal access to opportunities, regardless of income

- Understand the resources pupils have at home, modifying expectations and tasks and providing support to access resources, especially ICT
- Ensure consistency of rules, expectations and practice around resources between staff
- Lend resources like stationery, uniform and equipment for clubs without comment or trouble and having them there for everyone so that nobody stands out
- Put systems in place to ensure that children and young people don't have to feel embarrassed asking for help or subsidies
- Make sure that reward and merit systems are not affected by issues which could be related to finances at home
- Have clear anti bullying policies and practices which are alert to income based bullying and stigma.
- Educate staff and children to understand poverty and know that they can't be sure about everybody's situation;
- Ensure staff listen, not shout in public and ensure that there are confidential ways to disclose financial problems

Conclusion

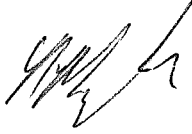
All additional services, provided by the school, are subject to the rigorous quality and child protection standards we practice as our norm.

We are constantly seeking to improve our services to parents and therefore value feedback and suggestions.

Additional out of hours provision incurs cost to the school, we therefore must seek to recover these costs. Any surplus made from additional services is fed back into the school's budget and used to purchase additional resources and enhance the teaching and learning opportunities and environment.

Statutory education provision is our core business and will always take precedence over out of hours events.

Signed by:

Headteacher/ Principal		Date: 25.10.21
Chair of Governors	Mark den Hollander	Date: 25/10/21.

