

Long Sutton C of E Primary School



CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Reviewed February 2019

Due for review February 2020

Our School Vision

‘Walking together and learning together through life’s adventure.’

In our forward-thinking Christian school we value and nurture all members of our school community and encourage everyone to reach their full potential. We offer a dynamic, challenging and inspirational curriculum based on Christian values which stimulates curiosity, adventure and risk taking within a safe and secure environment; where children can achieve success today in order to prepare for tomorrow.

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Purpose of Policy

We believe that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent 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, at the same time trying to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of these opportunities.

Relationship to Other Policies

The policy complements the school’s Equality Policy, Curriculum Policy, Finance Policy, Educational Visits Policy and Teaching and Learning Policy.

Roles and Responsibilities of Headteacher, Other 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
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours; however, Governors have agreed that Voluntary Contributions may be requested
- Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum or part of the school’s basic curriculum for religious education; however, Governors have agreed that Voluntary Contributions may be requested
- 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; however, Governors have agreed that Voluntary Contributions may be requested

2. Activities for which charges may be made:

- Activities outside school hours - non-residential activities (other than those listed in para 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)
- Residential activities - board and lodging costs (but only those costs) of residential trips deemed to take place during school hours; however, pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see para 3 below) may not be charged for board and lodging costs; residential trips are deemed to take place outside school hours (other than for those activities listed in para 1 above); when any trip is arranged, parents will be notified of the policy for allocating places.
- Music tuition - for individuals or groups of any appropriate size

3. 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 Charging and Remissions Policy sets out the circumstances in which charges will be waived. Criteria for qualification for remission are given below:

- Parents in receipt of Income Support
- Parents in receipt of income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Parents in receipt of support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Parents in receipt of Child Tax Credit, providing 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
- Parents in receipt of a Guaranteed State Pension

Additional categories of parents may claim help with some costs in some circumstances which will be decided by the Governing Body, taking into account whether additional help is justified.

4. 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:

- The school will give parents as much notice as possible of all trips
- We have established a system for parents to pay in instalments
- When an opportunity for a trip arises at short notice it will be possible to arrange to pay by instalments 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.