



East Bierley CE (VC) Primary School

# Charging and Remissions Policy

## 2017

The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced new provisions on charging for school activities. The purposes of these provisions are:

- to maintain the right to a free school education;
- to ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within normal school time should be available to all pupils, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost;
- to give educational authorities and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours;
- to confirm that schools may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, either in or outside school hours.

The Governors believe that activities such as educational visits (or visitors) are an extension to, and an enrichment of the curriculum. They have followed the DfE guidelines for Charging for School Activities, which allows the school to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to support these activities. The policy is reviewed every two years.

### **Introduction**

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual music tuition (see below).

### **Voluntary contributions**

When organising school trips, visits or visitors which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. No child will be omitted from a trip through lack of parental contributions however if the contributions are unacceptably low and the school cannot afford to subsidise the shortfall then none of the class would go. In this case any monies collected would be returned. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid the full contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others. Pupil Premium can be used where relevant.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded and the school provides this information on the visit information letter to parents. Charges are calculated by dividing the total cost by the number of children attending, with an additional amount for insurance added on the first visit of the financial year. Charges will not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity and will not include subsidies for other pupils whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In the case of Residential trips when school has to make a commitment in advance, any deposit received from the parents will be non-refundable.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- school trips;
- musical events;
- visitors to school.

**Residential visits**

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we make a charge to cover the costs of any workshops, board, lodging and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to speak in confidence to the Headteacher.

**Music tuition**

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. There is a charge for individual / small group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. Peripatetic music teachers are employed by Musica Kirklees and parents are charged for these lessons on a termly basis. For those children in receipt of FSM these lessons may be provided free of charge. Information on additional music tuition can be provided on request.

**Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for children in Year 3 or Year 4 at Tong School. These take place in school time. As the children walk to and from swimming lessons and these are part of the National Curriculum there is no charge or additional transport costs.

**Breakfast & Teatime Club**

Breakfast & Teatime Clubs run every school day; Breakfast Club from 7.40 am to 8.40 am at a charge of £4.00 per session and Teatime Club from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm at a charge of £3.50 per session. Late collection fees apply. Payment is made through the schools ParentPay system.