

Northway Community Primary School



Charging and Remissions Policy

Approved by:	K.McKenzie	Date: 25.6.26
Last reviewed on:	June 2026	
Next review due by:	June 2027	

1. 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

2. 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.

3. Definitions

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

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 The Governing Body

The governing body 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.

4.2 The Headteacher

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

4.3 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.

4.4 Parents

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

5. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what the school cannot charge for:

5.1 Education

Admission applications

Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments etc.)

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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

6. Where Charges can be Made

Below we set out what the school can charge for:

The school may charge parents for the cost of replacing or repairing school property where this has been deliberately or negligently damaged by a pupil.

6.1 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, such as charges may be made for additional services beyond the funded early education entitlement (e.g. extended hours, meals, consumables where permitted).

Community facilities

6.2 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:
 - o The National Curriculum
 - o A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - o 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:

- o Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- o The cost of buildings and accommodation
- o Non-teaching staff
- o Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- o 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.

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.

Where payment is required for optional extras, the school reserves the right to withdraw a pupil from the activity if payment is not received by the stated deadline.

6.3 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:

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

6.4 Residential Visits

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

7. 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, visiting speakers, theatre groups. This is not an exhaustive list.

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 may be cancelled.

The school will ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged or excluded from participation in any activity because of their parents' inability or unwillingness to pay. The school will not identify or treat pupils differently based on whether a voluntary contribution has been made.

8. Activities this School Charges for

The school will charge for the following activities:

Breakfast club, After School Club and some clubs or activities provided by external coaches.

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the governing board and reviewed in June each year. Parents will be informed of the charges for the coming year in July each year.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. The school will remit (in full or in part) charges for pupils whose parents are in receipt of:

- Universal Credit (with annual net earned income threshold as set by the DfE)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided annual income does not exceed the threshold set by HMRC and no Working Tax Credit is received)
- Working Tax Credit run-on

The school may also consider other cases of financial hardship on a discretionary basis.

9.1 Remissions for Residential Visits

Parents of pupils who are eligible for free school meals (or who meet the criteria used to determine Pupil Premium eligibility) may be exempt from paying the full or part cost of board and lodging for residential visits.

10. Monitoring Arrangements

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

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher every year. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.