



River Learning Trust

Charging and Remissions Policy

Part A

Person responsible for policy: Chief Operating Officer

Revised: May 2016

Review Date: May 2019

The River Learning Trust believes that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits, both 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 and, at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

It should be read with each school's individual Part B policy.

This policy follows the model policy drawn up by Oxfordshire County Council and updated by them in November 2012.

The 1996 Education Act requires all schools to have a policy on charging and remissions for school activities, which will be kept under regular review. The review date for this policy is recorded on the front of this policy.

1. The policy identifies activities for which

- **voluntary contributions may be requested**
- **charges will be made**
- **charges will not be made**
- **charges may be waived**

2. Voluntary contributions

Separately from the matter of charging, schools may always seek voluntary contributions in order to offer a wide variety of experiences to pupils. All requests for voluntary contributions will emphasise their voluntary nature and the fact that pupils of parents who do not make such contributions will be treated no differently from those who have.

The Law says:

If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions the parents will be notified of this from the outset.

No child will be excluded from an activity because parents are unable to pay.

If insufficient contributions are raised, the trip or activity may have to be cancelled.

If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay their child will be given an equal chance to go on the visit.

3. No charges will be made for

- An admission application
- 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, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours (see 4a);
- Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours (see 4a) 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;
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip.

4. Charges may be made for

a) Activities outside school hours

Residential and non-residential activities (other than those listed in Section 3 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). (See Section 9)

b) Residential visits during school hours

The board and lodging costs (but only those costs) of residential trips deemed to take place during school time, However pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see remissions policy below) will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging.

c) Music tuition

Music tuition for individuals or appropriate sized groups of pupils to play a musical instrument or to sing and which is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus for all pupils.

Music tuition

Music tuition for individuals or groups of up to 4 pupils

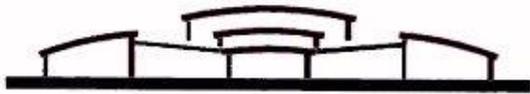
When any trip is arranged parents will be notified of the policy for allocating places. This should recognise that parents may not be able to pay quickly and may have to budget for the trip over a reasonable period of time.

5. Optional Extras

Each school within the River Learning Trust will have an individual policy (Part B) identifying procedures for optional extras, including residential trips and activities which can be charged for.

6. Remissions

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged pupils, the local governing bodies have 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. Individual school policies set out the circumstances in which charges will be waived.



POLICY ON CHARGING & REMISSIONS FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Part B – School Charging Policy

Voluntary Contributions

We will ask for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities during the school day. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, this will be made clear to parents at the outset. No child will be excluded from an activity because their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are received to fund a visit or activity, then it will be cancelled.

School Charging Policy

Sandhills Community Primary School recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including trips, clubs and residential experiences can make towards pupils' education.

The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities, for example After-School Clubs.

It is the policy of Sandhills Community Primary School that charges will (or may) be made as indicated below. Parental agreement will be obtained before a charge is made

Activity or items which will/or may be charged for	Notes	Charges or Voluntary Contributions
Materials, books, instruments or equipment where a parent wishes their child to own/hire them	For example, a clay model – a charge to cover the cost of the clay	Charge – Financial support available as outlined below
Music tuition provided by OCC Music Service and other providers, where parents have opted for music tuition beyond that delivered as part of the school's curriculum	The cost or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument or singing, where the tuition is an optional extra for an individual pupil or groups of pupils	Charged – Financial support available as outlined below
The board and lodging component of residential trips	The charge will not exceed the actual cost	Charged – Financial support available as outlined below
After School Clubs delivered by external providers	A charge is made to cover the direct cost of the activity where fees are payable	Charged – tuition fees are charged either directly by the external provider or collected for payment by the school
Workshops, speakers, visiting authors and artists etc, to enhance the curriculum	Such opportunities are typically subsidised from the school budget. The contributions requested will not exceed the actual cost of the event	Voluntary contribution – Financial support available as outlined below
Trips and visits to enhance the curriculum and provide first-hand experience	Such opportunities are often subsidised from the school budget, eg, museum visits, historic buildings, etc. The contribution requested will not exceed the actual cost of the event	Voluntary contribution – Financial support available as outlined below
Extended Schools – after school and breakfast club	A charge is made for each session in the school run breakfast club and after school club	Charged

Fundraising and charity events are considered to fall outside of this policy.

Support Offered to Families who have Difficulty Making a Financial Contribution

In order to remove the 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 cost to families who have difficulty making a financial contribution. Parents are encouraged to speak to the Headteacher to discuss what financial support is available.

Families Qualifying for Charges to be Waived or Help with Charges

If financial support is available in relation to a particular charge, it is indicated in the right-hand column of the table above. Specifically, where children are eligible to Free School Meals, the school receives Pupil Premium funding (criteria for qualification are below) and will cover in full or part any charge or voluntary contribution:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190*
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
- Universal Credit

Updated criteria and figures at:

<http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/public/LandC/Resources/CFM/Eligibilityforfreeschoolmeal.pdf>

Additionally, parents may claim help with some costs in the following circumstances:

- If more than one child in a family is going on a trip or visit, and this puts the family under financial pressure.
- If a family is experiencing financial difficulty resulting from unforeseen circumstances. Parents are encouraged to speak to the Headteacher to discuss what financial support is available.

Additional Considerations

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:

- Where possible we shall give parents sufficient notice of activities and visits
- We have established a system for parents to pay in instalments for residential visits.
- 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.

This Policy is reviewed annually by the Finance Committee.

Date of Review: October 2018 Future Review: October 2019