



## Kirkoswald C of E School

### Charging and Remissions policy

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1	Governing board	27 February 2019	January 2020	<i>M.M. Bowman</i>
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4	Governing Board	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023	January 2024	<i>A Farish</i>
5	Finance, Premises, Health and Safety Committee	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	February 2025	<i>A Hodgkinson</i>

## KIRKOSWALD CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

### CHARGING POLICY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Education Reform Act 1988 contains a principle that education provided by a maintained school during school hours should be free of charge. For some years, Kirkoswald Church of England School has arranged a large number of successful and stimulating outside activities for its pupils. The Governing board wants to make it quite clear that it supports the continuation of these activities but that parental contributions must be genuinely voluntary. However, some extended school clubs or programmes provided by out of school agencies may incur a cost.

It is the Governing board's policy that

- There is no obligation upon any individual or group of parents to contribute
- Registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have contributed to this activity

The policy complements the school's equal opportunities policy, curriculum policy, teaching and learning policy and off-site visits policy.

The Headteacher will ensure that the following applies:

#### 1. Admissions

No charge will be made for any aspect of the admissions process to this school.

#### 2. Activities wholly during the school day

No charge will be made for 'education' provided during normal school hours. 'Education' is defined as including all activities related to the National Curriculum and religious education as well as the materials, equipment and transport required to provide it. Music Tuition which is not part of the school curriculum is covered under Section 8, below.

We recognise that the definition of 'education' as 'part of the National Curriculum' is not limited to learning outside the classroom experiences required as part of a specific subject e.g. geography or science fieldwork, but also includes activities designed to fulfil requirements under the National Curriculum 'inclusion statement' and others as applicable.

A charge will be made to cover the cost of ingredients or materials where parents have confirmed in advance that they wish their child to own the finished product.

We will ask parents for voluntary contributions to help school fund the range of these opportunities we offer, but no child will be excluded from an activity on the basis of a parent's inability or unwillingness to pay this contribution. The Governing Board reserves the right however, to cancel an activity in its entirety if insufficient voluntary contributions are received.

From time to time we may invite a non-school based organisation to deliver an activity during the school day. Such organisations may wish to charge parents, who are entitled not to pay any fee and instead to ask the Headteacher to agree to their child being absent/taught elsewhere in the school for that period. In many cases, however, parents will be asked for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the activity.

#### 3. Activities wholly outside the school day

No charge will be made for education provided outside of normal school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of religious education.

We will ask parents for voluntary contributions to help school fund the range of these opportunities we offer, but no child will be excluded from an activity on the basis of a parent's inability or unwillingness to pay this contribution. The Governing Board reserves the right, however, to cancel an activity in its entirety if insufficient voluntary contributions are received.

Other enrichment activities not required as part of the national curriculum or religious education *and* which are wholly outside school hours are Optional Extras and chargeable. Please see [Section 7](#) for more information about charging for Optional Extras.

Lunchtime activities, after school and other extra-curricular clubs are wholly outside of school hours and do not fall under the definition of 'education' above. Please see [Section 7](#) for more information about charging for Optional Extras.

#### **4. Non-residential activities that take place partly during and partly outside the school day**

Where the majority of time spent on a non-residential activity is *within* normal school hours, the charging regime will be as if it happens *fully within* school hours. The majority of time is defined as 50% or more.

Where the majority of the time spent on a non-residential activity is *outside* of normal school hours, the charging regime will be as if it happens *fully outside* school hours i.e. the activity becomes an 'Optional Extra' unless it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of religious education. The majority of time is defined, in this case, as more than 50%.

Travel time is included when considering the time spent on an activity only when it occurs during school time as defined in the Introduction.

#### **5. Residential activities**

A residential visit may be wholly chargeable if it is an Optional Extra. Please see [Section 7](#) for more information about charging for Optional Extras.

If a residential visit is **not** an Optional Extra, charges will be made to the parents of pupils who wish to participate in residential activities for the cost of board and lodging with the exception of those in receipt of:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances (The government plans to prescribe the circumstances when Universal Credit is fully rolled out)
- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received, and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 (financial year 2013/14)
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- an income related employment and support allowance (ESA) that was introduced on 27 October 2008

We understand that parents should be informed of this when they are asked for money. Parents are encouraged to discuss their circumstances in confidence with the headteacher.

In order to cover any other costs associated with a residential visit e.g. activity tuition, for which charges cannot be made, parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution. No child will be denied the opportunity of attending a residential (only where it not an Optional Extra) if the parents do not wish to or cannot contribute voluntarily. It is possible however, that unless sufficient voluntary contributions are received to cover the cost, the experience will not go ahead. The Governing Board reserves the right, to cancel an activity in its entirety if insufficient voluntary contributions are received.

Other charges will be made to cover associated costs only where the visit is an Optional Extra because the number of normal school sessions (defined in the [Introduction](#)) missed by the pupils taking part totals less than half of the number of half-days taken up by the activity. The DfE defines a half-day session as a period of 12 hours ending in noon or midnight. In such cases, parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

#### **Example 1**

Pupils are away from noon on Wednesday to 9pm on Sunday. This counts as 9 half days including 5 school sessions, so the visit is deemed to have taken place during school hours.

## **Example 2**

Pupils are away from school from noon on Thursday until 9pm on Sunday. This counts as 7 half days including 3 school sessions, so the visit is deemed to have taken place outside school hours.

### **6. Optional extras**

The Governing Board reserves the right to charge parents for activities deemed to be Optional Extras. Such activities will include, for example, an evening visit to a theatre which does not fit the definition of 'education' in Section 3. Parents must make payment in order for their child to participate.

Lunchtime and after school activity clubs do not operate during normal school hours and to cover the costs of offering such opportunities a charge may be made to the parents of pupils who wish to participate in them. Families on a low income who are unable to pay such charges should speak to **Mrs Ellis** in complete confidence.

In calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments, or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra
- The cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra

### **7. Music tuition**

No charge will be made for tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments 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 this school, or forms part of religious education. A charge will be made for vocal and musical instrument tuition for either an individual pupil or groups of any appropriate size, where it does not fall into the category of teaching described above.

National charging guidance is followed, and no charge will be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22(l) of the Children Act 1989).

### **8. School milk scheme**

This is provided by Cool Milk

### **9. Damage to property and breakages**

The school will attempt to recover some, or all of the costs incurred repairing wilful or culpably negligent damage or breakage of school property or such damage or breakage of property belonging to a third party where the school has been charged. The actual amount will be determined by the Headteacher.

### **10. Calculating charges**

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can't. Support for cases of hardship will come through applicable funding such as pupil premium monies, specified voluntary contributions, and fundraising. Parents who would qualify for support are those in receipt of benefits as described in Section 6. The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to school and/or charges to parents.

### **11. Debt recovery**

It is the financial management policy of this school policy that all services provided by the school are paid for in advance and therefore it is expected that no debts will be accrued. In the unlikely event that debts are accrued, the Governing Board authorises school to take all reasonable measures to collect debts as part of its management of public funds. In doing so they will observe the relevant financial regulations and any other legal requirements.

Staff will follow set school procedures to secure the collection of all debts. A debt will be written off only after all reasonable measures (commensurate with the size and nature of the debt) have been taken to

recover it. Only debts below that allowed for in the annual funding letter issued by the Secretary of State may be written off. The recovery of any sums above this amount will be referred first to the Governors and then to the Secretary of State for approval. If any debtor has a number of debts that together exceed the write-off limit, then these will be treated as a total amount.

Unless a decision to write-off a debt is demonstrably a reasonable course of action authorisation is in place to initiate legal or other action to recover debts.

A formal record of any debts written off will be maintained and this will be retained for 7 years.

### **12. Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation**

The Finance Committee of the Governing Board will monitor the impact of this policy by receiving on a termly basis, a financial report on those activities that resulted in charges being levied, the subsidies awarded (without giving names) and the source of those subsidies.

### **13. References and associated policies and procedures**

- DfE Statutory Guidance document 'Charging for school activities: Departmental advice for governing bodies, school leaders, school staff and local authorities', May 2018
- Educational Visits Procedures
- Single Equality Scheme

