



RYECROFT C. E. (C) MIDDLE SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for school activities, external lettings and extended school provision, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents. Guidance is based on the Education Act 1996: Sections 449-462.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of the School is responsible for determining the content of the policy and the Headteacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered by the Headteacher.

Definitions:

Community Facilities – activities which the governors do not feel is of direct educational benefit to children at the school

Extended school provision – provision of childcare outside the standard school day where it is optional as to whether the child attends

External Lettings – letting to an organisation other than the school

Remission – where a charge is not payable, either in full or in part

Sinking Fund – a reserve put aside over a number of years to pay for major maintenance or renewal costs

Prohibition of Charges

The Governing Body of the School recognises that the legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- 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 religious education;
- tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as an essential part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil, or the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (Wider Opportunities);
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school;
- education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;
- education provided on any trip that takes place 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 schools basic curriculum for religious education;

- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school;
- transport provided in connection with an educational trip

Charges

Music Tuition

All pupils study music as part of the normal school curriculum. No charge is made for this provision.

There is a charge for individual or small group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity. These lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers and parents are invoiced directly by the peripatetic teachers.

Swimming

The pupils participate in swimming lessons during school time and lessons are part of the National Curriculum. No charge is made for this activity.

Extra Curricular Activities

The school may offer extra curricular activities after school. Where these are run by a member of the school's staff, there is normally no charge. Sometimes, an activity is run after school organised by a qualified person who is not a member of the school staff or a club, e.g. Stoke City Football Club, Drama. A charge could be made for these sessions, payable to the qualified person or club.

Damaged or Lost School Property

Parents may be asked to make a contribution towards replacing damaged or lost property caused wilfully or negligently by their children.

Residential Visits

The school does not charge for:

- 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
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip

Transport

The school cannot charge for transport provided in connection with an educational visit but may ask for a voluntary contribution.

The school may make a charge if pupils are transported in a minibus or coach to an extra curricular activity. However, these charges will be used to cover the expenses of the trip only and not to make a profit.

Voluntary Contributions

The school invites parents to contribute towards the cost of school trips or visits organised to enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the pupils. All contributions are voluntary.

No pupil will be excluded from an activity or trip simply because the parents are unwilling or unable to pay. The pupil is still given an equal chance to go on the visit or participate in the activity.

If sufficient voluntary contributions are not received, then it may be necessary to cancel the trip. If the trip goes ahead, it may include pupils whose parents have not given any contribution. These pupils will not be treated any differently to other pupils whose parents have made a voluntary contribution.

Parents may be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following (optional extras):

- visits to museums
- visits to or by a theatre company
- visits by poets, actors, etc.
- school trips
- musical events
- sporting activities which incur transport expenses

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request for a voluntary contribution in no way represents a charge. In addition, the following will be made clear to parents:

- that the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay
- that registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request
- that the trip may be cancelled if sufficient voluntary contributions are not received

The costs of any optional extra undertaken by any pupil whose parents are unable to pay may not be included in the charge to other pupils but must be funded through the delegated budget, school fund or other fundraising.

External Lettings

The school has a Lettings Policy.

Remissions

In addition to the main school budget, the school receives pupil premium funding for children who have been eligible for free school meals at any point within the last six years.

At Ryecroft, we use a proportion of the pupil premium funding we receive to support our intention of redressing the balance of deprivation experienced by those children, whose economic circumstances are such, that they may experience challenge in accessing the same educational and enrichment opportunities as those afforded to other children. We believe that valuable enrichment opportunities such as experiencing an outdoor residential visit should be accessible for all our students. To ensure all identified pupil premium pupils have access to a wide range of new and challenging enrichment opportunities, and are able to participate in school visits which are part of the curriculum, pupils will be entitled to the remission of charges for the following:

- Accommodation and meal costs in relation to residential school visits to an Outdoor Education Centre.
- School visits which are part of the curriculum
- Provision of a free breakfast or break-time snack - this service is provided to address problems relating to children being hungry on arrival at school and by mid-morning showing signs of tiredness, lack of concentration, and poor behaviour or learning.

Subsidised funding may also be available under the same criteria for the following:

- Music tuition provided by peripatetic music teachers in school
- School trips or visits that are not part of the curriculum studies but are organised to enrich the educational experience of the pupils, e.g. London
- lunchtime or after school clubs where a charge is made by an external provider
- uniform

The amount of the subsidy for the above will depend on:

- **The number of eligible pupils**
- **The requirement of the individual child**
- **The amount of funding the pupil has already received/been allocated for extra-curricular activities.**

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:

Chair

Date