



WILLOWBROOK SCHOOL

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

The purpose of the policy is to provide clarity on items which the school provide free of charge and those where there may be a charge.

Responsibilities

The head teacher should ensure that staff are familiar with and correctly apply the policy. The governors should review the policy annually.

Policy statement

During the school day all activities which are part of the National Curriculum and religious education are provided free. This includes materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It excludes charges made for teaching an individual pupil or groups of up to four pupils to play a musical instrument. Unless the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupils the school will make a charge. (See below)

We may seek voluntary contributions for activities during the school day which entail additional costs, for example field trips. In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from taking part because parents cannot make a contribution. If insufficient funds are available it may be necessary to change or cancel activities.

From time to time we may invite non-school based organisations such as a visiting theatre group to provide an activity during the school day. An organisation may wish to charge for the performance. In some circumstances a parent may wish to ask the head teacher for their child to be absent from that activity.

School day

The school day is:

Lower School 8.50am – 12 noon and 1.00 pm – 3.20 pm

Upper School 8.50 to 12.30 and 1.30 pm to 3.20 pm

The mid-day break is not part of the school day.

Reviewed by FGB in March 2017

Next review March 2018

Optional activities outside of the school day

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, for example school trips. These activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education; nor are they part of an examination syllabus.

Education partly during the school day

If an activity takes place outside the school (fully or in part), there will be no charge if most of the time spent on the activity falls in the school day. Conversely, if the bigger proportion of time spent falls outside of the normal school day, charges will be made. For these activities, parents should be told how the charges are calculated.

Residential activity

Charges will be made for board and lodging; charges for pupils whose parents receive eligible benefits may have their costs reduced. (see below).

Other charges will be made to cover costs when the number of school sessions missed by a pupil totals half or more of the number of half-days spent on the activity. In these cases parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

Calculating charges

When making charges for any activity, whether during or outside the school day, these will be based on actual costs, divided by the total number of pupils taking part. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support parents who can't or don't pay. Support for cases of hardship will be funded through voluntary contributions and fundraising. Parents who qualify for support are those who receive eligible benefits. The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

Music Tuition

In cases of hardship the governors will consider in their absolute discretion the remission of fees (either in full or in part) for those pupils who they consider will benefit from tuition.

Eligible benefits

Income Support, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, support under V1 of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income does not exceed the limit for the tax year. An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27th October 2008.

Parents who believe that they may qualify for this remission must apply in writing to the Headteacher. Complete confidence will be observed in all such matters.