



Hopping Hill Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

Person responsible for the policy	<i>Jo Fantarrow</i>
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Hopping Hill Primary School

Income and Charging Policy

CHARGING POLICY

Introduction

This charging policy has been compiled in line with DfES requirement and in accordance with s457 of the Education Act, 1996.

School Visits

Day Visits

No charge will be levied in respect of day trips that take place during school hours or are part of the curriculum (but also refer to Voluntary Contributions paragraph).

Essential Residential Visits

For residential trips which are essential to the National Curriculum, statutory RE or in preparation for prescribed examinations, a charge will be levied for board and lodging (but also refer to Voluntary Contributions paragraph).

Non-essential Residential trips

For residential trips which are not essential to the National Curriculum, statutory RE or in preparation for prescribed examinations:

If the amount of school time on the trip is less than half of the total time of the trip, a charge will be levied up to the full cost of the trip. If the amount of school time on the trip is half or more of the total time of the trip, a charge will be levied for board and lodging (but also refer to Voluntary Contributions paragraph).

Before and after school care

Parents/carers who use breakfast, after school clubs and OSCAR childcare do so in agreement with the current published charges. All payments are to be made through ParentPay or with childcare vouchers, when no payment is received pupils will not be able to access before and after child care facilities.

Early Years

Extended Early Years Provision

If a child is not eligible for 30 funded hours of Early Years provision, any hours over the universal offer of 15 hours can be paid for by the parent/carer at the current published charges. Payments can be made wither through ParentPay or with Childcare Vouchers. Where payment is not received children will not be able to access any additional provision.

Early Years over claims

If a Parent/Carer over claims for Early Years provision when using a second provider, current published Early Years funding rates will be applied to any sessions they have attended or continue to attend. Alternatively, the child will not be able to attend the nursery until such time that funding is available.

Late pick up

Any child not collected by 3:30pm will attend OSCAR club whilst a parent/carer is contacted. Parents/Carers will be charged at the current published rates for the provision

Materials & Textbooks

Where a pupil or parent/carer wishes to retain items produced as a result of art, craft and design, or design and technology, a charge may be levied for the cost of the materials used. Text books are provided free of charge, but in some subjects, additional revision guides may be available, for which a charge is made.

Optional Extras

Music Tuition

Parents/Carers book and pay for peripatetic music tuition directly with Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (<https://www.nmpat.co.uk/>)

Physical Activities

For gymnastics and swimming achievements, charges to parents/carers for the purchase of awards will not exceed the cost to the school.

Damage/Loss to Property

A charge will be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials) belonging to a third party, where the cost has been recharged to the school. The charge to be the cost of replacement or repair.

Voluntary Contributions

Where the school cannot levy charges, and it is not possible to make these additional activities within the resources ordinarily available to the school, the school may request or invite parents/carers to make a contribution towards the cost of the trip or event for transport, contingency, insurance and entrance fees. Pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents/carers have made any contribution in response to the request or invitation. However, where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, then it will be cancelled.

Other Charges

The Headteacher or Governing body may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services e.g. photocopying

REMISSIONS POLICY

Schools are permitted to charge for the cost of board and lodging during residential school trips. This cost must not exceed the actual cost of the provision.

Where the trip takes place wholly, or mainly, during school hours children whose parents/carers are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of these charges:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit Only (with income up to £16,190) with no element of Working Tax Credit
- National Asylum Seekers Support
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Universal Credit (income dependant)

The Headteacher, or Chair of the Governing Body may remit in full or part charges in respect of a pupil, if it feels it is reasonable in the circumstances.

The Headteacher, or Chair of the Governing Body may decide not to levy charges in respect of a particular activity, if it feels it is reasonable in the circumstances.

Charges and use of the premises are not the responsibility of the school but are administered by the holder of the PFI contract

INCOME POLICY

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHARGES

All charges levied, in accordance with the charging policy, including deposits, will be subject to annual review by the Governing Body

ADMINISTRATION OF INCOME

Invoicing procedures

Where relevant, invoices will be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations relating to Accounts Receivable in the **WNC** Financial Management Handbook.

Where relevant Invoices will be prepared by or monitored by the School Business Manager

Invoices to the Breakfast Club and After School Club provider will be generated weekly through Parent Pay by the Finance Assistant.

Where relevant, payments in advance will be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations relating to Accounts Receivable in the LMS Financial Management Handbook.

Income Processing Procedures

All payments must be made by Parent Pay; the school office will issue log in details. A bar coded letter to pay at Pay Point centres will be issued to those without internet access. The Business Manager will reconcile each Parent Pay statement to the school's accounts within one week of receipt of the bank statement.

All income received will be passed to the Business Manager who will keep a record of income received.

The receipt of income in respect of debtor invoices and non-invoice income will be recorded promptly on the school's local accounting system by the Business Manager VAT will be accounted for in accordance with the guidance given in the VAT section of the LMS Financial Management Handbook.

Income will be held in a locked safe pending banking. The code to the safe will be held by senior leaders and office staff as agreed with Headteacher.

Income will be banked promptly and intact.

A monthly reconciliation will be performed by the Business Manager to ensure that all income banked appears on the bank statement.

The Business Manager will report on the financial situation to the Headteacher monthly and to the Business Management Committee termly.

Private Fund Income (School Fund Account)

Income received for the School Fund Account will be processed in accordance with the LMS Financial Management Handbook.

Income for School Trips/Activities now falls under the school's main bank account.

Voluntary contributions are monitored through ParentPay, reminders are sent regarding trip contributions in order to meet the minimum required to make the trip viable. The voluntary contribution is calculated using the cost of travel, entry, miscellaneous charges and the transaction costs of using ParentPay, assuming all children in the relevant cohort will attend the trip. All costings reflect good value for money.

Should the income exceed the cost of the activity by £5 per pupil, this will be reimbursed to the parent/carer.

Should the income exceed the cost of the activity by less than £5 per pupil, this will be retained and form part of a 'Hardship Fund'. The Hardship Fund will be used for parents/carers who are unable to pay voluntary contributions toward the cost of school trips or activities.

CREDIT CONTROL

The credit terms for debtors' invoices are 30 days.

A statement and reminder letter will be sent to debtors who have not paid their invoices on the due date by the Business Manager.

If the debt remains unpaid a further reminder letter will be sent 14 days from the date of the first reminder letter by the Business Manager. In addition, where possible, the debtor will be contacted by telephone.

At this stage the Headteacher may refuse the debtor any further access to the school facilities until the debt is paid.

If the debt remains unpaid for a further 14 days a third letter will be sent informing the debtor that the debt will be referred to the school's legal representative.

If the debt remains unpaid and is for an amount greater than £100 it will be referred to the school's legal representatives (in the case of schools using **WNC** Legal Services, debts in excess of £50 may be referred).

If the debt remains unpaid and is for less than £50, it will be referred to the Governing Body by the Headteacher.

On a monthly basis a report will be presented to the Headteacher detailing outstanding debts by age and value.

Credit Control procedures relating to before and after school provision will permit a period of two weeks for payment to be cleared. In the first instance the Finance Assistant will contact the debtor by phone to confirm the debt amount and request immediate payment. Should payment not be made, the parent/carer will no longer be able to use the facility, or any further provisions until such time that the debt is paid in full. Where parents use childcare vouchers to cover the cost of provision, the waiting period will be extended to a month where agreed in advance with the School Business Manager.

WRITE OFF DEBT

Writing off a debt will only be considered when the credit control procedures have been exhausted.

Before closure of the financial year a list of debtors proposed for write off will be prepared by the Business Manager and will be submitted to the Governing Body for consideration. The submitted list will be supported by details of the debt.

The decision of the Governing Body will be clearly documented in the minutes of the relevant meeting.

After the Governing Body has approved a debt write off, this will be recorded on the school's accounting system by the Business Manager. Such write-offs will be cross referenced to the relevant Governing Body minutes.

CANCELLATION OF DEBT

In instances where invoices have been incorrectly raised, a list of invoices will be presented to the Headteacher/Governors' Business Management Committee with an explanation of why the invoice is required to be cancelled. The responsible member of staff will mark 'cancelled' across the invoice, and sign the invoice and all relevant documents which will be retained for audit purposes.