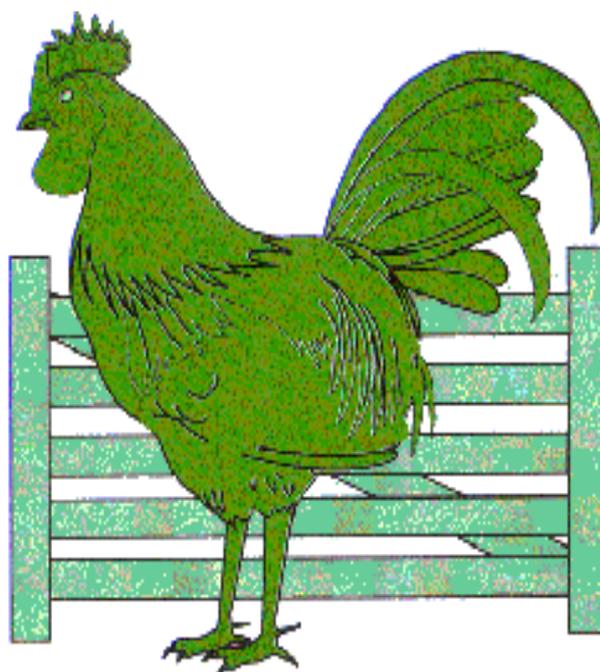


LOWER FARM PRIMARY



CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

DATE: 28.11.2017

DATE FOR REVIEW: 28.11.2018

APPROVED _____ (HEAD TEACHER)

APPROVED _____ (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)

Contents

- 1. Aims**
- 2. Legislation and guidance**
- 3. Definitions**
- 4. Roles and responsibilities**
- 5. Activities without charge**
- 6. Where charges can be made**
- 7. Voluntary contributions**
- 8. Activities this school charges for**
- 9. Remissions**
- 10. Monitoring arrangements**

1. Aims

Lower Farm Primary School aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools in England.

3. Definitions

- Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission: the cancellation or reduction of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The governing body

The governing body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

In our school, responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy has been delegated to the Finance, Premise's Pay and Personnel Committee.

In our school, monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the Finance, Premise's, Pay and Personnel Committee.

4.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Our staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The senior leadership team will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

5. Activities without charge

There will be no charge for the following:

5.1 Education

- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- Entry for a prescribed public examination including re-sits if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school

5.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit during school hours.

5.3 Residential visits

- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

6. Where charges can be made

The school may charge the full cost for the following activities:

6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them

- Optional extras (see below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

6.2 Optional extras

The school are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, the school can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority/governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs and wraparound provision)

When 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
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

6.3 Music tuition

The school can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

6.4 Residential visits

The school can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school may ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include:

School trips

After School Clubs

Snacks (EYFS).

There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit /activity, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it must be cancelled.

8. Activities this school charges for

The school will charge for the following activities:

2 and 3-Year old Wraparound facility which provides additional term time provision for 2 and 3 year olds where fees are calculated based upon staffing, equipment and refreshment costs.

Before and After School club and Holiday Playschemes whose fees are charged based upon provision costs including staffing, equipment, refreshments, bought in services, trips and contribution to utility costs.

School Dinners and Toast provided by the school's Red Rooster Restaurant are charged based upon staffing, catering provision and equipment costs.

After School Clubs may request a voluntary donation to offset the cost of purchasing materials/resources necessary for the running of the club.

9. Remissions

To remove 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 a reduced charge to parents/carers in particular circumstances. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for school trips and residential visits

Pupils who are eligible for benefit based Free School Meals or Pupil Premium funding will be eligible for a 50% reduction in any chargeable item or voluntary donation requested.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The School Business Manager monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher annually and approved by the Finance, Premise's, Pay and Personnel Committee.