



Charging and Remissions Policy

**The Policy was formally adopted by
the Governing Board on:**

Date: 20.03.23

Review:

Date: 20.03.26

CHARGING & REMISSIONS

Rationale

Fingringhoe aims to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that is enriched through a wide variety of additional experiences. These take place both on and off the school site and all activities are chosen to support the children's learning and the school's ethos. The Education Act 1996 clarifies the activities for which charges can be made or voluntary contributions sought and gives schools the discretion to charge for optional activities, provided wholly or mainly out of school hours and the right to invite contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school whether during or after school hours.

Objectives

The objectives of the Charging Policy are :

- To ensure activities offered in school time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
- To identify those activities for which charges may be levied.
- To invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school in support of any activities organised by the school either during or outside school hours.

The Heateacher and Governing Body will ensure that :

- Careful consideration is given to making up any shortfall in voluntary contributions from parents from the school's delegated budget.
- If a charge is made for each child it will not exceed the actual cost.
- In the case of day visits and activities, no child will be excluded because the school has not received a voluntary contribution towards the cost involved. Whenever possible, parents are given sufficient notice of forthcoming trips and activities

Charges

The Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances allowed by the Act :

- Ingredients and materials for cooking, Art, Craft, Design & Technology activities. Materials will be charged for (or parents will be required to supply these) if they have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product.
- Activities which take place outside school hours and which are not a statutory part of the National Curriculum e.g. outings, visits, sports coaching, cycling courses.
- Trips and activities during the school day (through a voluntary contribution)
- Activities which involve children in nights away from home will include charges for board, lodging and travel costs. The costs will not exceed the actual cost of provision.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip.

All contributions are voluntary, however should we not receive sufficient contributions to make the trip viable, it might be cancelled. If a trip goes ahead, it will include children whose parents have not paid any contribution.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. The school will provide a breakdown of how trips and activities are funded should this be required.

Breakages

In cases of wilful damage, breakage or loss of equipment on loan to children, the Headteacher, may decide to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

Financial Support

In order to minimise costs to parents, wherever possible the school contributes a small subsidy from the PTA, Sports Premium Grant (PE/Sport related), Pupil Premium Grant (Related pupils) or curriculum budgets. These are used specifically to support overall costs for the trip.

Residential visits

Our residential activities take place largely during school time and as such no charge will be made for the education element of the trip. Expressions of interest are sought prior to the visit in order to determine whether or not it will go ahead. This includes a breakdown of the costs involved. Parents of children involved in residential visits will be charged for board and lodging and will be asked for a voluntary contribution towards any other costs involved.

Parents of pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium are invited to discuss with the Headteacher the support that is open to them to help pay towards the cost of a residential.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition each term.

Swimming

If the school organises swimming lessons for children in Key Stage 2, these will take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. The school undertakes to cover the cost of transport, however, we invite parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

Sports coaching

The school offers sports coaching after school at varying times during the academic year. A sports coach, who is not a member of the school staff, runs and organizes these sessions. We make a small charge for these sessions when they are held after school, but no charge is made during curriculum time.

Additional In-School Charges

Income from Sales

Some goods are purchased through the school for the convenience of parents and this income often takes the form of commission. Goods include; book & PE bags.

Income from Donations

Occasionally, the school will seek voluntary donations from events such as non uniform days, sponsorship etc. The purpose for which the donation will be used is explained clearly to parents and visitors.

Income from Lettings

The school does not provide lettings at present.