



# Charging & Remissions Policy

Signed:

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Chair of Governors

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Head of School

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Review Date: November 2020

Next Review: November 2023

## **Introduction**

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, with the exception of some individual or small-group music tuition.

## **Voluntary contributions**

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents/carers to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents/carers have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

The 1988 Education Act draws a distinction between the term `charges` which are considered to be an obligatory cost and `voluntary contributions` which are self-explanatory.

Subsidies from various sources e.g. East Tilbury Parent Friends Association and voluntary organisations, will be considered to cover deficits. Surplus finance will be used via school fund for the benefit of the children.

Whenever possible, the school will give sufficient notice to allow parent/carers to pay by instalments.

If a parent/carer 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. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents/Carers have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents/carers. These activities are known as `optional extras`. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- school trips;
- musical events.
- transport

## **Residential visits**

If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. Parents/Carers of children who receive free school meals are offered the option to make a reduced payment or make use of the Disadvantage Subsidy Funding.

## **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 small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents/carers information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

## **Swimming**

The school currently organises swimming lessons for children in Years 3 & 5. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. This activity is subsidised by the school, however, parents/carers will be asked to pay a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the hire of the swimming pool, the instructors and the coach. We inform parents/carers when these lessons are to take place, and we ask for their written permission for their child to take part.

## **Lunch time / After School Clubs**

The school offers additional activities after school and during lunch breaks. We reserve the right to make a small charge for these sessions where required.