
Cannon Park Primary School

Charging & Remissions Policy 2015 – 2018

CHARGES AND REMISSIONS POLICY

SUMMARY

Charges and remission for pupils

According to the provision of the Education Reform Act, the Governing Body issues this policy statement on charges and remissions.

Charges are not allowed for any activity in school, with the following exceptions:

- Individual music tuition with parental agreement.
- Board and lodgings on residential trips (charges at actual cost except in the case of Plas Dol-y-Moch.) The full cost of board and lodging must be remitted for children of parents in receipt of family credit or income support.
- Optional extras, that is, those activities which take place mainly or entirely out of school time.
- Examination fees in certain circumstances, for example where the pupil has not been prepared for that examination by the school or where a pupil does not complete examination requirements without good reason.
- Wilful damage to equipment or materials.
- The school may ask, not require, parents to make voluntary contributions to such activities as educational visits in school time.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND REMISSION OF CHARGES

INTRODUCTION

The Governing Body of Cannon Park Primary are conscious of the valuable contribution which can be made to children's education by educational activities beyond the school and beyond day to day curriculum. They are required by law to state the circumstances in which they will make charges for such activities and to say when they will exempt particular individuals from those charges.

The following statements on Charging Policy and Remission Policy are intended to fulfil the legal requirements in this respect.

Educational visits are self-financing as charges are not permitted to be supported through the school budget. The cost of the visit is calculated on the basis that all pupils are attending and based on the actual cost of the venue, event charges, external personnel and transport costs if applicable. These costs are shared equally through the contributions from parents and we require all contributions in order for the educational visit to go ahead.

However, it will be recognised that many activities would be put in jeopardy by a shortage of funds unless supported by voluntary financial contribution from parents and by funds raised through the efforts of the school and all associated with it.

The Governing Body have agreed that we are unable to offer refunds if your child is absent and unable to attend, or approval withdrawn, as costs have already been calculated and charges incurred and the school is unable to subsidise these visits from the delegated budget.

For those families in receipt of family credit or income support, the Governing Body may offer a remission towards the charges of activities outlined in this policy.

The Governing Body have established a fund "Cannon Park Primary School Fund" which they intend to use to sustain and encourage activities and they will from time to time invite contributions to this fund.

A. Charging Policy

Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by Local Authorities in England as follows:

1. Board and Lodging on residential visits

A charge will be made for board and lodging for pupils taking part in residential visits whether these are required as part of a prescribed public examination or specifically to fulfil the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum or religious education, or provided as an optional extra.

The charge will be at actual cost except in the case of authorised visits to Plas Dol-y-Moch Outdoor Pursuits Centre where the charges will be in accordance with scales set from time to time by the Coventry City Council.

Coventry City Council's Outdoor Education Service has received a remissions budget to provide financial support to pupils who are in receipt of free school meals based on FSM criteria. However, due to the severity of the financial cuts imposed on the City Council by central government, and significant changes to School Funding arrangements, the remissions budget has been deleted. Schools no longer receive a reduction in the overall charge for pupils who are on the FSM Register as from 1st September 2015.

2. Optional Extras

Optional extras are those activities which take place mainly or entirely out of school hours and which are provided in addition to the school curriculum.

The City Council will not provide financial support for "optional extras" provided by the school and the school is required to ensure that any costs incurred must be fully covered by income generated. Optional extras provided from time to time by the school include for example evening theatre visits, visits to other countries to enhance language studies, visits to sporting events, visits to musical events, visits to exhibitions, Outdoor Studies trips and residential experience of a variety of kinds. A charge will be made at actual cost to all participating pupils for optional extras. Such costs could include an appropriate element for:

- (a) a pupil's travel costs ;
- (b) a pupil's board and lodging costs;
- (c) materials, books, instrument and other equipment;
- (d) non-teaching staff costs;
- (e) entrance fees to museums, castles, theatres etc. ;
- (f) insurance costs;
- (g) teaching staff specifically engaged for the activity.

The actual cost will be made known to parents before they are asked to agree to their child taking part in the activity and participation of each child will be subject to parents agreeing to meet the charges.

3. Tuition in the playing of a musical instrument

With effect from 1st September 1994 a charge will be made for individual tuition in the playing of a musical instrument where that tuition is not part of the approved curriculum of the school or part of a course authorised by the Chief Education officer and leading to an approved qualification. This charge will be in accordance with the scales laid down from time to time by the Governors of the Cannon Park Primary School.

4. Materials used in school

The school will provide all materials and equipment (but not clothing) required for purposes of the curriculum. Essential protective clothing for example safety goggles will be provided by the school.

In the case of Design Technology and Food Technology, a charge may be made for, or parents may be required to supply ingredients and materials if parents wish their child to take the product home. The charge in such cases will be not more than the actual cost of the materials and will be declared in advance to parents.

A charge may be made, at the discretion of the Head Teacher, for any wilful damage to equipment or materials, or for any loss of such equipment or materials when these have been placed in a pupils care.

5. Public Examinations

A list of prescribed public examinations is available at the school for inspection if required.

A charge covering the cost of entry will be made where the governors agree to enter a pupil for a prescribed public examination for which he or she has not been prepared by the school, for example where a pupil has received private tuition for the examination as in re-sitting an exam for which no additional preparation has been given since the first examination.

A charge will be made covering the entry fee where a pupil with parental agreement is entered for a public examination other than one on the prescribed list.

A charge will be made; covering incidental costs associated with preparing a pupil for a non-prescribed examination of the preparation takes place outside school hours. This charge will include teaching staff costs where the teacher has been specifically engaged to supply this optional extra.

A charge will be made covering the examination entry fee if the pupil without good reason fails to complete the examination requirements for any public examination for which the Governing Body or LA has paid or is liable to pay.

Failure in this context, meaning not completing course work or not sitting a final examination(s). Good reason in this context will normally mean either a doctor's letter in support of health related problems or satisfactory parental and / or other written testimony in other cases. A charge will be made covering the examination body's charge, where a parent asks for examination results to be re-scrutinised by the examination body.

B. Remission of charges

Having regard to the provision of the Education Act 1988 and the policies of Coventry City Council the Governors of Cannon Park Primary School will from 1 April 1989, remit charges in the following circumstances:

- 1.1 Board and lodging on residential visits.
- 1.2 Plas Dol-y-Moch.
- 1.3 Other residential visits deemed to take place during school hours or provided as part of a prescribed public examination or in order to fulfil statutory requirements relating to the National Curriculum or religious Education.

Remission to parents in receipt of specified benefits and pupils entitled to free school meals via Pupil Premium. Governors must be able to meet these costs.

2. Optional Extras

The Governing Body may at its discretion remit charges in respect of individual pupils or groups of pupils to enable them to take part in activities which are classed as "optional extras". Such remission will be granted in whole or in part having regard to the recommendation of the Head Teacher of the School and will be financed from the Cannon Park Primary School Fund.

3. Universal Free School Meals

In England, children may be entitled to receive free school meals if their parents receive certain support payments. Parents of eligible children need to register their child with their Local Authority for supported free school meals to ensure the school receives the maximum pupil premium allocation. From September 2014, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools in England will be eligible for universal free school meals.

Please note: Registration for free school meals is requested in order to trigger the pupil premium payment. Local Authorities have access to the eligibility checking service and can help you find out if you are eligible for supported free school meals.

4. Before & After School Club Charging Protocols

4.1 Cannon Park Before & After School Club (Rosie and Jim's) is an additional provision, provided by an independent company. The provision cannot be subsidised by the delegated budget which is for the compulsory education of school age children – this is an extended service.

5. Extended Services & Lettings Agreement

- Lettings applications should be made in writing using Form F53 and be submitted for approval.
- Times stated must include time for any preparation and packing up.
- If a letting ends considerably earlier than expected, the hirer should either notify the duty site services officer or leave someone in charge of the premises until the site services officer arrives to secure the premises.
- If an event over-runs, additional charges will be made.
- All charges for lettings are in line with Local Authority charges and cost of SSO overtime. Charges to be paid in advance.
- If the hirer defaults on payment, the lettings contract is terminated with immediate effect.
- A booking cancellation requires at least 3 working days before the date booked, otherwise the full hire charge will be payable.
- The School Governors reserve the right to cancel any booking and reserve the right to cancel without giving any reason.

CANNON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
SUMMARY OF PERMISSIBLE CHARGES FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Type of Activity	Mainly or entirely in school hours		Optional Extras *	
	Charges	Remissions	Charges	Remissions
Educational Visits, travel, entry fees, additional non-curriculum activities (within school day), themed activities etc.	Charges - not to exceed actual cost and financed by voluntary contributions through official budget – if voluntary costs are not achieved to cover the cost of the educational visit (and costs cannot be subsidised through the official budget) then the visit may have to be cancelled at the discretion of the Governors.	Remission to parents in receipt of benefits and pupils entitled to free school meals via Pupil Premium. Governors must be able to meet these costs.	Charge not to exceed actual cost e.g. evening theatre visits, school holiday excursions, weekend visits.	By the discretion of the Governors.
Board and lodging on residential visits	Charge not to exceed actual cost.	Remission to parents in receipt of benefits and pupils entitled to free school meals via Pupil Premium. Governors must be able to meet these costs.	Charge not to exceed actual cost.	By the discretion of the Governors.
Music Tuition	Charge for individual tuition which is not part of approved curriculum	By the discretion of the Governors.	*Where activities outside school hours are an essential part of the curriculum these are not classified as 'optional extras' and no charge may be made.	
<i>The Governing Body have agreed that we are unable to offer refunds for the above if your child is absent and unable to attend, or approval withdrawn, as costs have already been calculated and charges incurred and the school is unable to subsidise these visits from the delegated budget.</i>				
*Qualifying Benefits: Child Tax Benefit - Income Support - Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance - Income Related Employment and Support Allowance - The Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit - Asylum Seeker (Immigration & Asylum Act 1999, Part VI) Please note: Working Tax Credit is not a qualifying benefit and does not qualify for Free School Meals or additional remission				