

**Thomas Gray Primary School
Charging and Remissions Policy**

INTRODUCTION

The Head Teacher and Governing Body recognises the value of providing a wide range of experiences to enrich and extend pupils' learning and to contribute to their personal development. The Head Teacher and Governing Body aims to promote and provide such experience for the pupils of the school, both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and as additional optional activities.

However, many of these activities have an associated cost and cannot be provided unless voluntary contributions are received or parents are charged for the cost. This policy will set out the circumstances in which charges will or will not be made for school activities and when charges may be waived in order to ensure that all pupils have an equal opportunity to benefit from schools visits, curricular and extra-curricular activities.

STATEMENT

The policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1996. Where 'parent' is referred to this will include adults with a responsibility for the pupils.

We aim:

- To make school activities assessable to all pupils regardless of family income
- To encourage and promote external activities which give added value to the curriculum.
- To provide a process which allows activities to take place at a minimum cost to
- Parents, pupils and the school to respond to the wide variations in family income while not adding additional unexpected burdens to the school budget.

LEGISLATION – EDUCATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS

The DFE in its guidance to School Governors states that "education provided during school hours must be free. The definition of "education" includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by school to carry pupils between the school and an activity." It goes on to advise that "although schools cannot charge for school time activities, they still invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions". When additional costs are incurred by Thomas Gray primary School to enhance the curriculum opportunities for the pupils, parents may

be requested to make voluntary contributions. However, no pupil will be left out of an activity because his or her parents cannot or will not make a contribution of any kind.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum, part of a syllabus for prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school or part of religious education. Examples are sports activities, theatre visits and extended day services such as the before and after school club. Charges will be based on the cost incurred less any specific funding received except the before and after school club which will be charged at a commercial rate.

REMISSIONS

To ensure that access to activities reflects intentions, Thomas Gray Primary School will implement the following Remissions Policy. The fundamental aim of this policy is to ensure that all pupils gain fully from everything that the school is able to offer them and is based on an understanding of the relationship between low income, entitlement and access. This policy takes into account the very real and persistent difficulties which people on low income have in meeting the costs of educational activities for their children.

Where parents are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Support under part IV of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999 or Child Tax Credit (provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received), the Governing Body will observe its statutory requirement to remit in full the cost of board and lodgings for any residential activity that the school organised for the pupil if the activity is deemed to take place within school hours. There may be cases of family hardship which make it difficult for pupils to take part in other particular activities for which a charge is made. When arranging a chargeable activity the Governing Body will invite parents to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. Authorisation of remission will be made by the Head Teacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

Data protection of pupils and families

Teachers will ensure that these children are not publicly identified and stigmatised. This is particularly important as the fear of stigmatisation is often a key element in the non-take up of Free School meals. This will be accomplished by developing methods of collecting voluntary charges or dinner money, which do not identify children who do not contribute.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary contributions may be requested to help with providing activities even though they may be part of the normal school day or part of the National Curriculum. If voluntary contributions are requested for an activity it should be clearly understood that there is no obligation to contribute and that if the parent is unable or unwilling to pay, the child will not be excluded from the activity.

If sufficient contributions are not received the activity may be cancelled.

CHARGES

The Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge for the activities and items detailed below:

- Trips which are not part of the school curriculum or are outside the school day
- After school and pre-school clubs
- Damage to school property – the cost of replacing any item, such as a broken window or defaced, damaged or lost book, where this is a result of a pupil's behaviour.
- Visits to school by professionals e.g. Authors, storytellers, musicians, dancers, artists etc.
- Damage to school books (Reading scheme)

Lost school Equipment, Books etc.

Parents will be expected to replace or pay for the cost of lost items of School property.

Breakages and Damage to School Buildings, Furniture or Property

Parents will be charged for damage caused as a result of a pupil's behaviour.

Residential Activity

The DFE in its guidance to School Governors states that "For a residential activity taking place largely during school time or essential to the education provided at the school, no charge may be made for either the education or the costs of the travel.

However, charges will be made for board and lodging in these circumstances. A voluntary contribution will be requested by the school for such activities.

(Thomas Gray Primary School will follow the relevant legislation as contained in the Education Reform Act 1988: Section 106 – 111, 117 and 118. The guidance is contained in the DCSF circular 2/89 charges for School Activities).

Photocopying

Any photocopying that is requested by parents relating to their child, under the 'Freedom of Information Act', will be charged 10p per sheet and 20p for any colour printing.

The Governing body may, from time to time, amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made.

Nothing in this policy statement precludes the Governing Body from inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of providing education for pupils.


Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by staff and governors.

Signed A.P. Taylor.

Chair of Governor 04.12.18

Signed



Headteacher 04.12.18

Review Date - Autumn 2019.