

# **Oakhurst Community First School**

## **Charging & Remissions Policy**

### **Introduction**

All education during school hours is free. School hours are those when school is actually in session, they do not include the midday break.

We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition. The school will ensure that on occasions where charges may be levied, for example, for residential or other visits, no pupil is disadvantaged solely by their inability to pay.

### **Voluntary contributions for activities as part of the Curriculum**

When organising school trips, visits or workshop activities which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the activity. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel the activity.

If any parent or carer is experiencing financial difficulties we will strongly encourage them to talk in confidence to a member of staff.

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, the child is still allowed to participate fully in the trip or activity as long as parental consent has been given.

If appropriate and funds allow, the school or Oakhurst PTFA may pay a proportion of the costs in order to support a visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded and the school will provide this information on request.

### **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. This charge is paid directly to the school which organises peripatetic music teachers to teach individuals or small group lessons on the school site.

We reserve the right that if payment is not made on behalf of a child that lessons will be withdrawn. Letters will be sent to parents/carers to inform them of any monies owing before such a decision is taken.

We give parents information about additional music tuition during the summer term prior to the start of each academic year.

## **Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for groups of children. Lessons take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2. Most primary schools teach it in years 5 and 6. We have chosen to teach it in years 3 and 4 as it is not yet taught at West Moors Middle School. We do ask for a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of transport to and from the pool, provision of a lifeguard/specialist teacher and hire of the pool itself. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place.

## **Optional Extra Activities**

(Activities which take place wholly or mainly outside school hours and are not required in order to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to Religious Education)

It is the governors' policy to charge for such activities organised by the school. The basis for calculating the charge will be proportionate for each participating pupil for travel, board & lodging, materials, books, equipment, entrance fees and insurance.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive:

- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- music tuition by peripatetic music teachers
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- residential trips;
- musical events.

## **Activities not run by the School or Local Authority**

When an organisation acting independently of the school or Local Authority arranges an activity to take place on school premises and parents want their children to join the activity, such organisation may charge parents.

## **Residential Visits**

The school organises an annual residential visits for children. The cost of this trip includes board & lodging, transport, materials, entrance to any sites visited and charges for any activities to be experienced.

The cost of this trip will be based on travel costs, entrance to sites, materials and charges for activities experienced. The governors' policy is for the school to cover the cost of any additional teacher and support staff time necessary to lead the trip or subsequent follow up work.

Parents will be given the option of a payment plan to spread the costs of the residential visit.

## **Charging in Kind**

The cost of ingredients, materials, equipment, etc., needed for practical subjects, such as food technology or DT, is budgeted for and borne by the school. However, the school may charge for, or require the supply of ingredients and materials, if the product is to be owned and taken home by the child afterwards, e.g. food products, models containing electrical equipment or batteries. The school will inform parents prior to activities, giving them the choice to pay for materials or purchase their own materials for the activity.

## **Breakages & Fines**

The Governors reserve the right to ask parents to pay for the cost of replacing any item such as:

- broken windows
- defaced, damaged or lost books
- replacement reading or homework diaries
- any item damaged as a result of unsatisfactory pupil behaviour

## **Childcare**

We will charge families for any childcare offered to children before and after school (and during school holidays), with the level of fees and any remissions to be set and reviewed regularly by the Governing Body, and in accordance with any requirements set by the Local Authority where it is subsidising the provision.

## **Special Needs**

The governing body confirms that no pupil with special needs or disabilities will be treated any differently than any other pupil. The school will take all reasonable steps to avoid putting children with special needs at a substantial disadvantage.