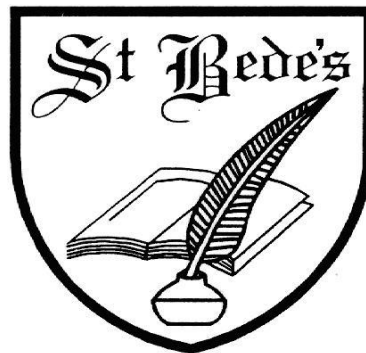


St Bede's RC Primary School



'One in unity, rich in diversity'

Charging and Remissions Policy 2015-2016

Document Management:

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| Date Policy Approved: | 23.03.16 |
| Next Review Date: | Spring 2017 |
| Approving Body: | Governing Body |
| Policy Category: | Finance |

Charging and Remissions Policy

1.0 Roles and Responsibilities

1.1 The Governing Body of St Bede's RC Primary School is responsible for determining the content of this policy and the Headteacher for implementation. Any determination with respect to individual parents/carers will be considered jointly by the Headteacher and Governing Body. While the responsibility for the implementation of this policy and provision rests with the Headteacher, on an operational basis, the management, responsibility and evaluation of this policy is undertaken by the School Business Manager.

2.0 Suggested Audience

2.1 All staff and parents

3.0 Aim

3.1 The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for activities, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents/carers.

4.0 Activities for which charges cannot be made

4.1 The Governing Body recognises that legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- An admission application
- Education provided during School hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment).
- Education provided outside School hours, if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the School, or part of religious education.
- Tuition for students learning to play musical instruments, if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the School.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during School hours that is part of the National Curriculum or an examination.

- Education provided on any trip that takes place outside School hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the student is being prepared for at the School, or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover those teachers who are absent from the School accompanying students on National Curriculum or Examination Courses.
- Transporting registered students to or from the School premises, where in the past, the local education authority has had a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered students to other premises where the Governing Body or in the past, the Local Authority has arranged for students to be educated.
- Transport that enables a student to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the School.

5.0 Activities for which charges may be made

5.1 The Governing Body and Headteacher will consider asking parents/carers to meet the costs of the activities detailed in the following table. The charges will be made after consultation with parents/carers, will not exceed the cost of the provision and will be proportional for each student. Lessons / activities will not be confirmed until parental/carer agreement has been received, ideally by return of a signed reply slip.

| Activity | Note |
|---|--|
| Board and lodging on residential trips | Information about activities and costs to be distributed to parents/carers well in advance of any trip, to enable financial planning by the family to take place |
| Materials or equipment if parents/carers indicate in advance that they want the child to bring it home. | |
| The proportionate costs for any student on activities wholly or mainly outside School hours ('Optional extras') to meet the costs of: | |

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 Travel •2 Materials and equipment •3 Non teaching staff costs and costs of staff specifically engaged for the activity •4 Entrance fees •5 Insurance costs | |
| Vocal and musical instrumental tuition | Charges to cover the additional costs incurred by the School, beyond any element covered by public funding |
| Any other education, transport or examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the School. | |
| Any other education, transport or examinations fee unless charges are specifically prohibited | |
| Breakages, repairs and replacements as a result of damage caused wilfully or negligently by the student | Charges will be made after consultation with parents/carers and will not exceed total replacement /repair costs |
| Extra-curricular activities and clubs | Charges to cover the additional costs incurred by the School, beyond any element covered by public funding |
| Any extended School activity | Charges to cover the additional costs incurred by the School, beyond any element covered by public funding |

5.2 The School will make every effort to ensure that all information lays out costs and activities as simply and clearly as possible and is communicated well in advance, to enable families to plan for these charges.

6.0 Remissions

6.1 Students whose parents/carers are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school meal entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of charges for board and lodging costs during residential and other School trips.

6.2 The relevant support payments are:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1998

- Child Tax Credit, where the parent/carer is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HMRC) does not exceed £16,190 (as at April 2013) (in respect of this item, account will need to be taken of any revision to the amount)
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

A child aged 16-18 is also entitled if they receive any of the above benefits in their own right.

- 6.3 All letters to parents/carers regarding activities which request a parental/carer contribution will include a statement inviting those parents/carers receiving any of the benefits above to contact the School in confidence if they would like their child / children to participate, giving details of the relevant benefit, so if necessary the School can confirm this.

7.0 Voluntary Contributions

- 7.1 The Headteacher may ask parents/carers for a voluntary contribution to support School activities.

- 7.2 The terms of any request made to parents/carers will specify that it is a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge. In addition the following will be made clear to parents/carers:

- a) That the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent/carer is under no obligation to pay.
- b) That registered pupils at the School will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents/carers have made any contribution in response to the request.
- c) The activity may not take place if insufficient contributions are made.

- 7.3 The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the School Business Manager under the direction of the Headteacher.

- 7.4 The School Business Manager will have the responsibility for determining which students attend an activity.

8.0 Lettings

- 8.1 The School will make its facilities available to outside users and the community at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges will be determined annually by the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee should consider a separate lettings policy for any significant level of lettings income.

9.0 Other charges

- 9.1 Charges may be made in accordance with the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act legislation.

10.0 School Meals

- 10.1 The Governing Body will determine and publish annually the price to be charged for school meals.

11.0 Monitoring and Review

- 11.1 The School Business Manager is responsible for monitoring all aspects of this policy. An annual written report will be made to the Governing Body, giving precise figures around charges and parental/carer contributions.

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