



Charging and Remissions Policy

The staff and Governors of Gorse Ride Schools believe that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents'/carers' financial means. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that there is clarity over those items/activities which the school will provide free of charge and for those items/activities where there may be a charge. This policy follows DfE guidance.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to explain:

- what the school will make a charge for;
- what the school may request a voluntary contribution towards;
- how the school charges for the Y6 residential visit;
- the arrangements for pupils in receipt of free school meals (FSM).

Remissions

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged pupils, the governing body has agreed that some activities and visits where charges can legally be made will be offered at no charge or a reduced charge to parents in particular circumstances. This policy sets out the circumstances in which charges may be waived.

Voluntary Contributions

Schools are entitled to seek voluntary contributions in order to offer a wide variety of experiences which add excitement and enrichment to the children's learning. The school may ask for voluntary contributions to provide an activity that would otherwise be prohibitive due to the limits of the school budget. This includes visits, both internal and external. No child is excluded due to an inability or unwillingness on behalf of the parent to pay. Parents are advised however that if insufficient contributions are received the activity may be cancelled.

Chargeable Activities

The school may recover the full costs of the following activities, which may be provided directly or through commissioned services but charges will not exceed actual cost:

- Educational or other activities provided wholly or mainly outside school hours, which are not:
 - (a) Part of the National Curriculum.
 - (b) Part of a syllabus for prescribed public examination for which the pupil is being prepared for at school.
 - (c) Part of religious education.
- Board and lodgings on residential visits (subject to remission arrangements).
- Provision of instrumental and vocal tuition, which takes place during the school day and which has been requested by parents/guardians.
- Provision of materials/ingredients for subjects such as Art & Design or Food Technology, where pupils take home a finished product.
- Before and After School Clubs run by the School



Equal Opportunities

Gorse Ride Schools are committed to equal opportunities for all pupils. When a child is in receipt of free school meals parents are notified in writing that whenever a request for a contribution is made, they will not be required to pay. They will still receive the letters and information so they are aware of what is taking place and so that they can give consent if needed.

Currently Pupil Premium funding provides a limited amount of money so children in receipt of free school meals at any time over the last 6 years have full access to the curriculum and all other enrichment and extra-curricular activities. This funding can be used at the discretion of the school for any activity that would be of interest/benefit to the child either as part of the school day or for external activities including events during the school holidays.

Other Children in Need of Assistance

There may be children whose parents have advised the school that they are experiencing financial difficulties and are unable to meet any or part of the cost of an activity. These cases are treated on an individual basis.

Residential Visits

The school currently has one residential visit per year for Year 6 children to Beaulieu. This is an optional activity and alternative provision made for children who do not participate. For this activity to be viable, parents are required to pay the full cost for board and lodgings and are additionally expected to make a full contribution towards the additional costs of the visit. However there are exceptions and help is available for those in need. For those in receipt of free school meals, part of or the whole cost can be met through an amount held by the school in a designated fund for that purpose. Other parents experiencing difficulties are encouraged to pay as much as they can reasonably afford and each case is considered individually and on receipt of a written request for help.

Activities Outside School Hours

The School recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities, including clubs and visits, can make towards a pupil's education. The school has a variety of clubs that operate before or after school and some during lunchtime. Some clubs are free but for others parents meet the full cost. Those in receipt of free school meals are able to join one club if they wish and the school will meet the cost.

Maestros Music Tuition

Parents can make private arrangements with Maestros for a child to learn a musical instrument. Lessons take part during the school day and the parent bears the full cost of the activity.

Materials for Practical Subjects

A voluntary charge for the cost of materials may be requested when pupils wish to take home items that they have made. This is to enable replenishment of the consumable resources.

Library Books

A charge may be made for lost or damaged books.



Damage to School Property

Parents should be aware that a charge may be made for wilful damage to school property.

Monitoring and Review

The Finance and Personnel Committee of the governing body monitors this policy every three years. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if necessary.