



## **Barwell C of E Academy Charging & Remission Policy**

## **Introduction**

All education during school hours is free. The Education Reform Act of 1988 made it illegal for schools to charge for certain school activities if they take place during the school day.

### **Exceptions:**

We do not levy a compulsory charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of:

- Individual or small group additional music tuition
- Costs associated with residential visits
- Trips/Residential not connected to the National Curriculum

## **Remissions**

In accordance with DfE guidelines the Governing Body adopts the following

The Head Teacher and Governors will consider sympathetically cases of genuine need seeking help with these charges and may offer to remit, in part or in full, the cost of full board and lodging for any residential activity which is deemed to take place in school hours or where it forms part of the syllabus for the National Curriculum.

Applications in this instance need to be made to the Head Teacher.

The Governing Body may wish to remit in full or in part the cost of other activities for parents in receipt of certain state benefits using Pupil Premium funding. When arranging a chargeable activity such parents will be invited in confidence to apply for the remission of charges in full or in part. The Head Teacher, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, will make authorisation for such remission.

## **Charging Policy :**

### **Voluntary contributions**

When organising school visits or events which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school may ask parents to contribute to the cost of these on a voluntary basis. However, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may need to cancel a visit or event. This is made clear to parents.

The school offers 50% reduction in voluntary contributions requested in the case of non-residential visits and special events in cases where parents are entitled to remission of charges (see above), subject to proof of entitlement. This remission is supported through the use of Pupil Premium funding.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school non-residential visit or event, but is unwilling or unable to make any voluntary contribution, and does not qualify for remission (see above) we allow the child to participate fully if the visit or activity goes ahead. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school during curriculum time, which may require parental voluntary contribution in order to take place. These activities are known as 'optional extras'.

This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums and art galleries;
- visits to places of worship and of multi-cultural significance
- sporting activities which incur transport and / or additional teaching expenses;
- outdoor adventurous activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- school residential visits;
- musical events

### **Residential visits**

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which provides education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education. However, we do make a compulsory charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. The cost to the school of transport and entrance to places of interest is largely met through voluntary parental contribution. If the residential activities involve the cost of equipment hire, guides, additional training or support of any kind we request that parents and carers make an appropriate voluntary contribution to enable the activities to go ahead. Insufficient support through voluntary contributions may result in a visit being cancelled.

We are able to subsidise the overall cost of a residential visit where families qualify for remission through the use of Pupil Premium funding. This reduces the overall cost of Residential Visits by 50%

### **Music tuition**

All children study music as part of their school curriculum entitlement. We do not charge for or seek voluntary contributions towards this.

A compulsory charge applies to additional individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. Peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. Leicestershire Arts make a charge for these lessons. Payment is made by parents directly to Leicestershire Arts, although the school is responsible for informing parents of the cost, in the first instance. We give parents information about additional music tuition before the start of each academic year. Where families qualify for remission of charges we subsidise costs by 50% using our Pupil Premium funding.

### **Extended school activities**

The school offers additional activities before and after school.

A Breakfast Club operates every morning from 8.00a.m. – 8.40a.m.

An additional sports teacher is employed through school to organise and run some after school sessions.

Some regular after school activities are organised and run by paid support staff.

Teachers may volunteer to organise and run extra-curricular activities.

We recoup the cost of additional activities in the extended day through making a small compulsory charge per session to parents. Parents entitled to remission of charging (see above) are offered 50% reduction in costs through our Pupil Premium funding.

#### Wilful Damage

Parents may be asked to make a contribution towards replacing damaged or lost school property caused wilfully or negligently by their children.

#### Lettings

Although the school uses the LA recommended scale of charges, in order to provide the community with a more financially accessible facility, the Governors have agreed to let out the facilities for the time required rather than the recommended four hour block of time. The governors will review the lettings charges levied by the school on an annual basis.

For private lettings the school adds a charge to cover admin and any overtime costs of the Premises Officer.