

Charging and Remissions Policy



**CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

ONE BODY, MANY PARTS



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Approved by	Full Governing Body	Meeting Date	25 th January 2024
Ratified by			
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Next review	January 2026		

Charging and Remissions Policy

1. Aims

At Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, we recognise the value of providing a wide range of experiences to enrich and enhance pupils' learning and to contribute towards their personal development.

Therefore, the aims of this policy are to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions.
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will and will not be made.
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449 to 462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England.

It's also based on guidance from the DfE on [statutory policies for schools and academy trusts](#).

3. Definitions

- Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

Responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy and monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the Resources Committee.

The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

4.2 Headteachers

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently.
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies.

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where charges cannot be made

Below is set out what we **cannot** charge for:

5.1 Education

- Admissions applications
- Education provided during school hours. This includes the supply of any materials, books, instruments, other equipment except when a child wilfully damages school property or property is lost. The charge incurred will be to replace like-for-like the lost or damaged items.
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
 - the National Curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious Education.
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school.

5.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated.
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

5.3 Residential Visits

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
 - Religious education
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

6. Where charges can be made

Below is set out what we **can** charge for:

6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment where the child's parent/carer wishes the child to own them or when a child wilfully damages school property or property is lost. The charge incurred will be like for like.
- Optional extras (see section 6.2)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school and the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus.

6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school.
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra.
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is optional extra.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental/carer agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

6.3 Music tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum.
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme.
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority.

6.4 Residential visits

School can charge for board and lodging on residential visits but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

The following is a list of some additional activities organised for which school may ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers. This list is not exhaustive. These activities include:

- Enhancement activities such as school trips/visits, sports activities, outdoor adventure activities
- Buildings (10% levy for Diocesan Building Fund Voluntary Contribution Scheme)
- Events
- Contributions towards equipment and resources
- Charitable fundraising

There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit, then it may be cancelled.

If an activity goes ahead, it may include children whose parents/carers have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others. If a parent/carer wishes their child to take part in a visit or event but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the visit or activity. If a parent/carer wishes their child to take part in a residential and is unable to meet the full cost, a payment schedule would be agreed between the Headteacher and parents/carers. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents/carers have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

Activity	How the Charge is Calculated
Breakfast Club	Calculated based on cost of <ul style="list-style-type: none">- staffing- provision of breakfast- resources specific to the Breakfast Club Parents/carers will be informed of the charges for the coming year in July each year.
Educational visitors where school is incurring additional costs	Calculated based on the cost of the invoice
Educational Visits – offsite	Calculated based on the cost of the invoice including transport
Residential Visits	Calculated based on the cost of the invoice including transport
Book bags	Calculated based on the cost
Lost or damaged reading books	£5 per lost or damaged book. In the case of a lost book, this will be reimbursed if the book is found.
School dinners provided by Catering Leeds	The Governing Body will determine the price to be charged for school meals based on the charge to Catering Leeds. Parents/carers will be informed of the charges for the coming year in July each year.
Milk	Once a child turns five, parents/carers are able to pay a subsidised rate half termly for their child to continue to receive milk. Parents/carers will be informed of the charges for the coming year in July each year.
Other miscellaneous activities	Calculated based on the cost of the invoice.
Wilful damage to the property or equipment	Calculated based on the cost of the replacement or repair.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Governing Body and will depend on the activity in question.

To request assistance, parents/carers should contact the Head Teacher.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits.

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (providing that parents/carers are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the household's income must be less than £7,400 per year (after tax and not including any benefits)

The list of benefits to which this applies can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

9.2 Additional considerations

The governing body recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end school will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Provide as much notice as possible so that parents/carers can plan ahead with at least six months for residential visits.
- Provide a system for parents/carers to pay in instalments.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Senior Finance Admin Assistant monitors charges and remissions and ensures these comply with this policy. This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body bi-annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body.

11. Debt Recovery

The school and governing body will make every effort to work with parents/carers to prevent debts mounting. Monies should be paid in advance using the online payment system. If debts exceed more than four weeks charges, the debt will be referred for further action. Before reaching this level, two reminders will be sent via text to the parent/carer and on the third reminder the parent/carer may be advised that they will be required to pay in advance for all future supplies and services or the service may no longer be available.

to them. A sensitive approach to debt recovery will be carried out and an appropriate payment plan negotiated.

Further sources of information: Charging for School Activities (May 2018)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/706830/Charging_for_school_activities.pdf

