



USWORTH COLLIERY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Charging & Remissions Policy

Designated member of staff: Alison Forster
Chair of Governors: Alison Logan

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| Approved by: | Finance & Premises | Date: 21.10.2024 |
| Last reviewed on: | October 2024 | |
| Next review due by: | November 2027 | |

Background

The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced new provisions on charging for school activities. The purposes of these provisions are:

- to maintain the right to free school education.
- to ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within normal school time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' or carers' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
- to give Local Authorities and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours.
- to confirm that schools may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, either in or outside of school hours.

The school has adopted the LA policy for charging for school activities, which allows the school to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to support these activities. This policy is reviewed annually or in response to LA advice and guidance.

Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for an activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

Voluntary Contributions

Voluntary contributions are invited for school visits and trips, as these are an enrichment of the curriculum. No pupils are excluded from these activities because of their parents' inability or unwillingness to contribute. However, where insufficient contributions are received to adequately fund such visits, then the visit may have to be cancelled. Where additional funding is available, the school is committed to allocating a proportion of this to subsidise visits across all year groups.

Residential Visits

There is a charge for residential visits which take place mainly in school time. This covers the cost of board and lodging. Sometimes the school receives specific project funding, which is used to cover either all or part of the cost of such visits, making it fully accessible to all pupils.

Music Tuition

All pupils have free access to the music curriculum. There is a charge for individual music tuition where this is not part of the National Curriculum. Parents/carers are charged for pupils to be taught in small groups. Parents of pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding can access this to contribute towards the cost of music tuition, following agreement by the Headteacher.

The school covers the cost of whole class tuition for each year group throughout the year.

Swimming

Swimming lessons are organised for pupils in year 5. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum and therefore no charge is made for these lessons. The transport element of this activity is funded by the school.

Pupil Premium Grant

From September 2014, Pupil Premium Grant funding may be used to reduce the cost of large scale trips (e.g. London, Derwent Hill, etc) and music tuition for children in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant (those who are or have ever been Free School Meals). Letters will be sent home regarding this provision to eligible families. Parents/carers who wish to use their child’s Pupil Premium funding are asked to contact the school office directly. All money spent from the Pupil Premium Grant is logged against each child. Parent/carers are informed of this fund when they are awarded Free School Meals.

For whole class day trips we will continue to ask for voluntary contributions as the cost is often minimal and use where possible the school minibus to further reduce costs.

School Lettings

The school lettings policy outlines the charges for use of the school premises.

Signed Date
Headteacher

Signed Date
Chair of Governors