



Walmsley CE School

Charging Policy

Policy Drafted	February 2012
Policy Written By	Kath Greenhalgh
Date Approved by Governors	November 2016
Date Reviewed	October 2019 & October 2021
Date of Next Review	October 2023
Responsible Committee	School Effectiveness Committee

Mission Statement

As a school we pledge to:

...be a happy school where pupils are encouraged and challenged to reach their full academic and social potential in a creative, friendly and safe Christian environment

...work as a partnership with pupils, their families, staff and the wider community to provide an environment of honesty, responsibility and integrity

...give ownership of the opportunities presented to the school family thus enabling them to reflect on their time at Walmsley with pride

The School Admission Code of Practice Guidance on School Uniforms and Charging of School Activities

The new School Admissions Code states that: 'All governing bodies **must** ensure that their policies and practices do not disadvantage certain social groups or discourage them from seeking a place at the school of their choice for their child'.

This includes their school uniform/appearance policy and their charging and remissions policy. This will promote fair access and remove school uniform and school trips as a barrier to choice.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

1. The Department for Education (DfE) believes that school uniforms have an important role to play in school life. Its *Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners* recognises that school uniforms help improve behaviour and attendance. School uniforms help to define the ethos of a school and the standards expected. They help give children pride in their school, and make them ambassadors for their school in a community.
2. Uniforms chosen should be widely available. Governing bodies should give high priority to cost and should not seek to operate as sole suppliers in order to raise funds through the sale of new uniforms.
3. Schools should have arrangements in place to ensure that no family feels unable to apply to that school due to the cost of its uniform. Schemes for remission of costs should be widely publicised and administered discreetly.
4. Governing bodies must make it clear in their admission arrangements that there is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to a school.

CHARGING FOR SCHOOL TRIP/ACTIVITIES

The education we provide wholly or mainly during school hours will be free but on some occasions a 'voluntary' contribution towards the cost of an activity may be requested by the school. Parents are free to decide whether or not to contribute. This policy sets out the principles upon which the school will operate charges and remissions.

1. Under charging provisions set out in legislation, governing bodies may choose to charge for certain defined activities, which will be clearly notified to the parents beforehand. A fund is available within school to help parents who cannot meet the charges.

2. School trips are an important part of school life and can contribute to the ethos of the school. However, participation in these activities is on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet permitted charges. Again, a fund is available within school to help parents who cannot meet the charges.
3. The school may also request voluntary contributions towards the cost of some activities planned during school hours.
4. Where parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of an activity which takes place during school hours, or to school equipment or school funds, the contribution will be genuinely voluntary.
5. Pupils of parents who are unable or unwilling to contribute will not be discriminated against.
6. When there are insufficient voluntary contributions to make an activity possible, and when there is no way to make up the shortfall, it will be cancelled.
7. A charge may be made for certain activities that take place outside of school hours for example for residential trips, the school will charge for the cost of board, lodging and transport at the actual cost of the provision. However, the charge must not exceed the actual costs.
8. Where music tuition or singing tuition is not an essential part of the national curriculum, charges will be made.

The funding of activities will be a clear and open process understood by all. We intend that our charging and remissions policy will be in line with that of the LA and that it will meet the requirements of the law. As with all our Policies our charging and remissions policy is reflected in our mission statement and aims.