

# Riverside Primary School

*Where everyone matters and every day counts*



## Charging, Refunds and Remissions Policy

Agreed October 2023

Review October 2024

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- 1.0 Confirmation that the Charging, Refunds and Remissions Policy in respect of Riverside Primary School has been discussed and formerly adopted by the full governing body.

Signed by:

Chair of Governors: ..... Date: .....

Print name:.....Valerie Lucking.....

Headteacher: .....Date: ...

Print name.....Claire Smith.....

Agreed at the Resources body meeting on:

## 2.0 CHARGING POLICY

### 2.1 School Meals

The charge for a school meal will be set annually by the governing body following consideration of the Catering Business Plan as part of the annual budget setting process.

All meals taken by pupils who are not eligible for free school meals will be chargeable, parents/carers are expected to make prompt payment. Where payments are not made in advance of the meal being taken, parents/carers will be reminded of their debt by email/ letter.

There is no charge for pupils who are entitled to free school meals or universal infant free school meals.

## 2.2 Educational visits:

The school:

- will seek voluntary contributions from parents/carers where applicable
- will not exclude a child from participating in an activity during the school day on financial grounds

Where a percentage of parents decline to make the requested voluntary contribution (their identity will remain confidential), or the contribution shortfall means that the visit or activity is not financially viable, then it will not take place. This will be determined on a case by case basis at the Headteacher's discretion.

## 2.3 Residential activities:

The costs of residential activities can be high and such activities may only continue to be available if sufficient costs are recovered.

Charges that apply:

- travel costs – transport to and from the residential activity
- board and lodging
- full cost of board and lodging on residential trips whether or not it takes place during school hours
- parents / carers will be informed of the cost before the activity takes place
- costs of supply staff engaged to cover the staff accompanying pupils on a residential trip where the trip takes place during term time
- full cost recovery for residential activities that take place outside of school hours

NB> The school will subsidise the cost of any residential trip for children of families claiming free school meals at 50% discount. In exceptional circumstances this may be increased and this remains at the discretion of the Headteacher.

No charge applies:

- where parents / carers in receipt of certain benefits may claim exemption in accordance with the Remissions guidance below
- for education costs incurred on any visit during school hours
- for education costs incurred on any visit outside school hours if it is part of the school's curriculum

## 2.4 Music Tuition

Instrumental tuition or singing lessons do not form part of the curriculum but are an additional activity arranged by the school and delivered by specialist tutors either on an individual basis or as part of a group, following parental request. The cost of such lessons is dependent on the charges applied by the tutors, the size of the group, the duration and frequency of each lesson.

The school operates on a full cost recovery basis. However, in order to ensure equal opportunities for all pupils, charges for music tuition within school hours for pupils eligible for free school meals or children in care will be considered for remission in accordance with this policy (see remissions section).

## 2.5 Swimming

The school is fortunate to have a swimming pool and provide swimming lessons for all children across the school. Swimming is a statutory part of the National Curriculum, and it is important that all children participate in these sessions. The school will request from parents/carers a voluntary contribution to cover the school's costs in running swimming lessons. Contributions for swimming lessons go towards the overall cost to maintain and run the swimming pool and is heavily subsidised by the Sports Premium. The contribution represents very good value in terms of cost per lesson and is revised at least annually to ensure best value. The contribution is voluntary and the school will subsidise children whose parents are unable to meet the cost. (Please see Section 5.0 - Voluntary Contributions for more information).

## 3.0 Extra-curricular activities:

### 3.1 Extra - Curricular clubs

Where these activities run outside of normal school hours, (i.e. sports clubs, art clubs) a charge may be made to cover costs of equipment, teaching or non-teaching staff, specialist staff /coaches or materials used.

Parents/carers will be advised of any such costs before their child is allowed to undertake any such activity and participation will be on the basis of the parent's willingness to pay the charges.

Parents/carers are able to claim remission from such charges in accordance with the guidance below.

The school offers one free club per eligible child per term for children in receipt of Free School Meals. This is dependent on the uptake of the club ensuring that it can run.

### 3.2 Breakfast club

- charges apply in accordance with the rules laid down in the school's separate Breakfast Club agreement, which must be signed by parents/carers before their child is left in the care of breakfast club staff

### 3.3 Twilight club

- charges apply in accordance with the rules laid down in the school's separate After School Club agreement which must be signed by parents/carers before their child is left in the care of after school club staff

## 4.0 Other areas:

### 4.1 Charges apply:

- books and materials belonging to the school that a pupil has lost
- books and materials that a parent wishes a pupil to keep after having been advised of the cost
- activities taking place outside school hours that are not
  - part of the school's curriculum*
  - part of a syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school*
  - part of the school's basic religious education*
- property damage – each individual case to be decided upon by the Headteacher
  - full repair costs incurred as a result of wilful or reckless damage to school property by a pupil or parent/carer
  - full recovery of costs incurred by the school as a result of damage caused by a pupil to third party property

### 4.2 No charge applies:

- for activities taking place during school hours except any of those listed above
- for transport during school hours for school-organised activities except for educational visits as detailed above

- for activities outside school hours that are part of the
  - set curriculum including sports matches against other schools / academies
  - syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school
  - school's basic religious education syllabus
- for admissions.

## 5.0 Voluntary contributions

The school may, from time to time, ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions to the school's general funds in order to assist with the provision of resources to enhance their children's education. There will be no pressure exerted and any contribution will be gratefully received.

Where the voluntary contribution applies to an educational visit or extra-curricular activity, if the sufficient level of contributions is not achieved, that activity will be cancelled; any monies already collected will be refunded to the relevant parents/carers.

## 6.0 DBS checks

The school will cover the cost of DBS checks for all employed staff.

The school will cover the cost of DBS checks for regular volunteers such as PTA/Governors and those parents who help out on a regular basis. Other volunteers will pay for the DBS and be refunded this charge if they become a regular volunteer.

## 7.0 REFUNDS POLICY

### 7.1 School meals

- Where payment for a school meal is received in advance and the pupil is absent due to illness, the funds will be retained to be used for future meals.
- If the school has to cancel meal provision for a short time, the income received in advance will be recorded against each individual pupil to be used to cover future meals; where that amount exceeds £30 for any one pupil, the parent/carer may request a refund.
- When a pupil leaves the school and income has been received but meals not taken, the parent is entitled to request a refund.

## 7.2 Educational visits

- When a pupil is absent due to illness and does not attend an educational visit, the transport/entrance cost will not be refunded, where already committed. However, where possible, the school will endeavour to recover costs related to that activity and, if successful, will then refund the parent/carer.
- If a trip has to be cancelled by the school, parental contributions will be refunded, less any initial deposits withheld by the venue.
- Where contributions for an activity exceed the final total cost by more than £5 per pupil, a refund will be given. Excess income less than £5 per pupil will be retained in school funds. Excess expenditure will be paid from school funds.

## 7.3 Residential activities

- If a pupil does not attend a residential activity due to illness, the school will endeavour to recover costs, through the trip insurance and, if successful, will then pass this refund onto the parent/carer; please note that initial deposits may be retained by the travel company.
- Where a residential trip is cancelled by the travel company, the school will endeavour to recover full refunds which, upon receipt, will be passed onto the parents/carers.
- Where a residential trip is cancelled by the school, parental contributions already received will be refunded, less any initial deposits withheld by the venue.
- We strongly advise all parents to take out their own insurance for school trips, especially residential.

## 7.4 Music Tuition

- Where instrumental or singing lessons are cancelled by the tutor or the school, and payment has already been received, the school will transfer the funds to cover future lessons taken by the relevant pupil. If lessons are not being continued in the following term, the parent/carer may request a refund.
- Where a pupil fails to attend a pre-booked lesson, refunds do not apply.

## 7.5 Extra-curricular activities

- If a pupil does not attend an activity due to illness, no refund applies.
- Where curriculum related clubs are cancelled by the school, the income received will be held to cover the cost of the next round. Where pupils are not taking part in the future, parents/carers are entitled to request a refund.

## 7.6 Outside of school hours activities - not part of the curriculum, or public examination syllabus or part of the academy's basic religious education

- If a pupil does not attend an activity due to illness, no refund applies.



- Where the activity is cancelled by the school, the income received will be held to cover the cost of the next round. Where pupils are not taking part in the future, parents/carers are entitled to request a refund.
- Where the activity is arranged by the school but has been cancelled by external organisers/tutors/sports coaches, the school will endeavour to obtain refunds which, upon receipt, will be passed onto the parents/carers.
- Where an activity arranged by external organisers directly with parents/carers is cancelled, the parents/carers must contact the organisers to obtain a refund in accordance with the separate booking agreement.

## 7.7 Breakfast and Twilight Clubs

Refunds are in accordance with the rules laid down in the separate Breakfast / After School Club agreement.

## 8.0 REMISSIONS POLICY

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors will authorise the remission of charges in all cases.

The school will consider the remission of charges to parents or carers who receive the relevant support payments (in accordance with the current DfE listing) which make their child/children eligible for free school meals and for children in care.

All claims for remission of charges should be addressed to the Headteacher and will be dealt with confidentially.

The school may decide to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and pupils; each event or case will be considered individually by the Headteacher and the governing body.