



Sleights Church of England
(Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

September 2022

*Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed
through our Christian values
perseverance, respect and trust.*

This policy intends to outline the policy and procedure for Charging and Remissions at Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School. This is a statutory policy and sets out the School's position on charges, remissions and lettings.

Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England. This guidance complements the information given in "A Guide to the Law for School Governors" (Chapter 23) and reflects the terms of the Education Act 1996.

This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the School's Finance Committee and will be adjusted in line with new Government or Local Authority recommendations.

Voluntary Contributions and Responsibilities of Staff

Nothing in legislation prevents a Governing Body or Local Authority from asking for voluntary contributions that would benefit the School or any School activities and the School will invite parents and others from time to time to make voluntary contributions to enable the provision of activities and visits which may not otherwise be possible. If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, this will be made clear to parents at the outset. The Governing Body or Headteacher will make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution. No student will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. However, if insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, it may not go ahead. Staff organising visits should make this clear to parents. Staff organising a trip will make it clear to parents at the outset what their policy for allocating places on the visit will be.

Activities outside of normal lesson times and not within the National Curriculum (ranging from visits abroad to school matches) are classed as 'optional extras'. Parents may be asked to meet the full cost of these activities. In the case of residential experiences, every effort will be made to offer value for money but the cost might be quite high. It is intended that School-based extra curricular activities should be free or very low cost. The School will do its best to offer assistance or remission of charges in any case where there is hardship.

For activities during normal School hours and/or within the National Curriculum, parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of the activity to enable it to go ahead. Each year, such visits are likely to include visits to museums, attractions, pantomime visits etc.

When making requests for voluntary contributions to School funds, parents will not be made to feel pressurised into paying, as it is not compulsory.

Charges and contributions should cover the anticipated costs. If contributions from an activity exceed the actual cost, the School will refund surpluses of £5 or more per student. Any surplus of less than £5 per student will be retained in the School Fund for use with other activities. A charge may include an allowance for the cost of staff from the School who supervise optional extra activities if those staff have been specifically asked to cover the activity as an 'optional extra'.

Parents may be asked to meet the costs of private music tuition in full, where tuition is given either to an individual student or to students in small groups. General fundraising and sponsorship may be used to permit additional activities.

Charging Structure

For residential courses during the time of normal School hours, parents can be asked to meet the full cost of board and lodging, and to make a voluntary contribution towards any travel expenses. The School will meet the costs for students whose parents receive the income support benefits, where it is still possible for the visit to go ahead. The School will do its best to offer assistance and remissions in any case where there is hardship.

Parents may be charged for some or all of the cost of damage to School property where this has been intentional. Parents will be expected to meet some or all of the cost for replacing lost or damaged books or equipment.

Activities and Visits

If the number of School sessions taken up by the visit is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half days spent on the visit, it is deemed to have taken place during normal School hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening). Whatever the starting and finishing times of the day, regulations require that a school day be divided into two sessions: a 'half day' means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during School hours. Activities during normal School hours may only involve a request for a voluntary contribution; parents may be charged an amount to cover the costs incurred to the School for activities mainly taking place outside of School hours.

Parents should be informed of the decision to ask for contributions at the planning stage of activities. Planned activities may be cancelled if financial support is not forthcoming. Parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards activities taking place during School time, or towards activities which are a necessary part of the National Curriculum, or towards activities that form part of the School's basic curriculum for Religious Education. Parents will be asked to meet the full cost of optional extra activities that occur outside of normal School hours, where these activities are not a necessary part of the National Curriculum. Parents will be asked to meet the full cost of board and lodging, and to make a voluntary contribution towards travel expenses for residential visits which fall, in the main, during normal School sessions. Students whose parents are receiving the following benefits should not be prevented from taking part in any School activity or trip that is open to other students:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers' Allowance (IBJSA);
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed the limit set by HMR&C
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- any similar income related employment and support allowances introduced by the Government.

Any charge made in respect of individual students will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of students participating. It will not include an element of subsidy for any other students wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge. In 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;
- non-teaching staff;
- teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and
- the cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during School hours, the charge will include the cost of alternative provision for those students who do not wish to participate. Therefore no charge will be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from School accompanying students on a residential visit. Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

When the School informs parents about a forthcoming visit, the member of staff leading the trip should make it clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of income support benefits will be exempt from paying

the cost of board and lodging. However, where voluntary contributions would not cover the cost of a visit, it would be likely that the visit would be cancelled where the trip was not an essential element of the curriculum.

Music Tuition

The law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, but music lessons are an exception to this rule. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced a regulation-making power which allowed the Department for Children, Schools and Families to specify circumstances where charging can be made for music tuition. The new Regulations, which came into force in September 2007, provide students with greater access to vocal and instrumental tuition. Charges may now be made for teaching either an individual student or groups of any appropriate size (provided that the size of the group is based on sound pedagogical principles) to play a musical instrument or to sing. Charges may only be made if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the student(s).

Extended Schools

Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School provides a term time only wraparound school childcare service for children in Reception upwards. Parents will be charged for use of the service and the session times and charges are as follows:

Full morning session, including snack	7.45am – 8.30am	£3.00
Short morning session, no snack	8.30am – 8.50am	£1.50

Full afternoon session, including snack	3.15pm – 5.30pm	£7.00
Short afternoon session, no snack cost included	One hour session	£3.50

Early Years

Nursery Charges for Additional Sessions over the funded 15 hours

All 3 and 4 year old children have an entitlement to 15 hours funded entitlement and this entitlement must always be completely free at the point of delivery. A parental agreement will be required in relation to the funded 15 hours provision.

Additional sessions over the 15 hours per week entitlement may be available, but this is dependant upon the number of children who are attending for funded sessions and to whom priority will be given. The parental agreement should include details of the additional chargeable sessions which will only be guaranteed for the duration of 1 term with the agreement being put into place each term to define requirements, again dependant upon availability.

Sessions	Cost for 2 year olds	Cost for 3 and 4 year olds
9am – 12.00pm	£16	£12
12.00pm – 3.00pm	£16	£12

*Lunchtime Sessions

Lunchtime sessions are supervised by Early Years staff. A hot meal is charged to children at a cost of £1.90 per child per day. This includes the cost of school lunches and a small snack during the session.

Invoicing and Payment Procedures

An invoice for the additional sessions will be sent to parents at the end of each half term, via ParentPay. Where immediate payment of the invoice may cause hardship, parents are advised to contact the Headteacher in writing upon receipt of invoice. The School will do its best to assist with payment arrangements basing

individual requests on their own merit. Note: late payment may incur additional charges (see Important Note and Late Payment Charges below) and non payment will result in the termination of the contract with immediate effect unless an individual agreement has been arranged.

Non Attendance or Cancellation

There will be no refunds (full or part) for non attendance of chargeable sessions. Fees for additional sessions are chargeable for a full term and cancellation of the agreement will result in a cancellation charge for the remainder of fees due up to the end of the term. The cancellation charge may be waived or reduced at the discretion of the Headteacher basing individual requests on their own merit. All requests for waiving/reduction of cancellation fee must be put in writing to the Headteacher. Note: late payment may incur additional charges (see Important Note and Late Payment Charges below)

Free School Meals

For information on free school meals where applicable please see the School Office Manager. Where there is entitlement to a Free School Meal the lunchtime supervision charge will be waived for the sessions that the Free School meal applies.

Important Note

Any sums payable by parents for optional extras such as unpaid nursery fees, extended school provision etc. to which they have agreed in writing, or for board and lodging shall be recoverable as a civil debt and may also be subject to late payment charges.

Late Payment Charges

Charges will be levied at the higher of **£5.00 or 5%** (change as necessary) of the outstanding debt, to cover associated administration costs.

Miscellaneous Charges (other than for students)

Lettings

Scale of charges:

School Hall £ 10 / hour

(Community non-profit organisations £7.50 per hour)

Playing Field £ 10 / hour

(Community non-profit organisations £7.50 per hour)

Any additional charges or caretaking work will be charged to the individual organisation as required.

Photocopier charges

5p per copy (reduced rates for large numbers of copies)

Telephone charges

20p per call

Value Added Tax

The Governors are constrained by law to apply value added tax to all transactions where appropriate.