

## **Weston All Saints C of E Primary School**

### **POLICY FOR CHARGING AND REMISSIONS**

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for Charging and Remissions at Weston All Saints C of E Primary School (WASPS). It was revised during the Spring term of 2014 through a process of consultation with teaching staff and approved by the Governing Body.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this document is to help the Headteacher and Governing Body to set out their policy on charging and remission for school activities and school visits.

#### **2. Aim**

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for activities, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents.

#### **3. Responsibilities**

The Governing Body and Headteacher of the School are responsible for determining the content of the policy. Any determinations with respect of individual parents will be considered by the Headteacher and where appropriate will be shared with the Finance Committee/Chair of Governors.

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, practical activities, trips and residential experiences can make toward pupils' personal and social education. The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities. The governors endorse the guiding principles contained in the Education Act 1996, in particular that no child should have his/her access to the curriculum limited by charges. If a particular activity is limited to a specific number of pupils, the inclusion of pupils must not make reference to the ability or willingness to pay on behalf of the parent.

#### **4. Prohibition of Charges**

The Governing Body of the School recognise that the legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, classroom instruments or other equipment);

- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;
- Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school;
- Transport provided in connection with an educational trip.

## **5. Charges**

- The Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances for activities organised by the school.
- Activities outside school hours including clubs
- The full cost to each pupil of any activities deemed to be optional extras taking place outside school hours including residential visits
- Individual/Group Instrumental Tuition. In such cases the charge will not exceed the cost of provision
- Breakages
- Coach travel costs for optional enhancement activities

## **6. Residential Visits**

- A charge will be made for the cost of board, lodging and travel costs (subject to statutory exceptions) the cost will not exceed the actual cost of provision. See remissions for further details.

## **7. Music Tuition**

- Although the law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, music lessons taught by peripatetic teachers are an exception to this rule.

## **8. Breakages**

- In cases of wilful or malicious damage to equipment or breakages, or loss of school books or equipment on loan to pupils the Headteacher/the Chair of the Governing Body may decide to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

## **9. Voluntary Contributions**

- The Governing Body may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of any activity that takes place during school hours. Parents are under no obligation to make any contribution and pupils of parents who are unable or unwilling to contribute will not be discriminated against. In the event of insufficient voluntary contributions being made the activity may have to be cancelled and refunds will be given.

Parents may also be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following:

- educational visits which take place outside school hours
- any activity which takes place during school hours;

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request is for a voluntary contribution and

- a) that the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay; and
- b) that registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the Headteacher

## **10. Remissions**

Where the parents of a pupil are in receipt of state benefits which would attract Pupil Premium funding, the Head Teacher will utilise the funding predominantly to provide Learning Resources support to that pupil where deemed necessary. Where support is not required, and at the Head Teacher's discretion, Pupil Premium funding may be used to enable the pupil to take part in educational and residential visits. This is made clear in all correspondence in relation to these activities.

## **11. Publication of Information**

This policy can be found on the school's website and hard copies are available from the school office.

## **12. Review and amendments**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the GB Finance Committee who may, from time to time recommend amendments to the categories for which a charge maybe made, this will be brought to the full Governing Body for ratification. However, the Governing Body reserve the right to review the Charging and Remissions Policy as necessary.