

# Charging and Remissions Policy 2021

Kindness



Innovation



Passion



Imagination



Collaboration



thomas  
fairchild  
community  
school

## Introduction and Overview

This document sets out the schools policy on charging and remission for school activities and school visits, in line with the Education Act 1996. The Executive Head and Governing Board recognises the value of providing a wide range of experiences to enrich and extend pupils' learning and to contribute to their personal development. The school therefore aims to promote and provide such experiences for our pupils, both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and as additional optional activities. Activities must be accessible to all pupils regardless of family income, offered at a minimum cost to parents, pupils and the school while recognising the wide variations in family income.

Charges can be made for any activity which the schools Governing Board authorise and which is chargeable under the Act and where the activity takes place wholly or mainly outside the school session time. In general, the parents of all participants in an educational activity, arranged by the school, for which a charge is applicable, will be expected to contribute. Where educational activities are provided by third parties, their charges will be passed on to the parents of participating pupils. No charge will be made for activities which form part of the normal curriculum entitlement of pupils nor for admission. Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs, (for example field trips). In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. However, if insufficient funds are available it may be necessary to curtail or cancel activities.

The Headteacher will ensure that staff are familiar with and correctly apply the policy and the Governing Board will review the policy annually.

The Board of Governors, of Thomas Fairchild Primary School, **cannot** charge for:

- an admission application;
- education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, 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, 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;
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.

The Board of Governors of Thomas Fairchild Primary School **can** charge for:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them;
- optional extras (see below);
- music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see below)

## Optional Extras

Charges may be made for some activities that are known as 'optional extras.' Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge **can** be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment. Optional extras are: education provided outside of school time that is not:

- part of the National Curriculum
- part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
- part of religious education
- examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;
- transport that is not required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority/governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education;
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit.

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;
- 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.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils must not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. It must not therefore include an element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

Furthermore, in case where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate. Therefore, no charge can be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils 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 prerequisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

## Voluntary Contributions

Nothing in legislation prevents Thomas Fairchild Primary School, or the local authority, asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, or any school activities.

However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the governing body or Executive Head /Headteacher should make this clear to parents at the outset. The governing body or Executive Head/ Headteacher **must** also make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution.

It is important to note that no child should be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, then it must be cancelled. We must make sure that this is made clear to parents. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child must still be given an equal chance to go on the visit. We should make it clear to parents at the outset our policy for allocating places on school visits.

## Residential Visits

Thomas Fairchild **cannot** charge for:

- ✓ education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours;
- ✓ education provided on any visit 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 visit.

We **can** charge for:

- board and lodging and the charge must not exceed the actual cost. When we inform parents about a forthcoming visit, we will make it clear to parents – who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits – will be asked to pay only a reduced amount in the cost of board and lodging:

- Income Support (IS);
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received #

## Music Tuition

The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 set out the circumstances in which charges can be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, including vocal tuition. They allow charging for tuition in larger groups than was previously the case.

Charges may now be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or to groups of any size, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent. Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff who provide the tuition.

The regulations make clear that charging may not be made if the teaching is either an essential part of the national curriculum, or is provided under the first access to the key stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme. They also make clear that no charge may be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22(l) of the Children Act 1989).

## Transport

We **cannot** charge for:

- 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/she has been prepared for that examination at the school;

## Remissions Policy

Families qualifying for remission or help with charges

- In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged pupils, the governing body has agreed that some activities and visits where charges can legally be made will be offered at no charge or a reduced charge to parents/carers in particular circumstances. This remissions policy sets out the circumstances in which charges will be waived. Criteria for qualification for remission are given below.

Parents/carers in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- 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 HM Revenue and Customs) does not exceed the sum given in the Revenue and Customs rules
- Pupil Premium entitlement

Charges for other 'chargeable activities' may also be fully or partially remitted. Details of any remission arrangements will be made clear when parents are informed of charges for individual activities.

## ***Thomas Fairchild Primary School Summary of Charging Policy***

*The attached summary may be published regularly in the Newsletter and posted on the school website.*

**1.** The Governing Board of Thomas Fairchild Primary School recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities, including clubs, trips and residential experiences can make towards pupils' personal and social education. The Governing Board of Thomas Fairchild Primary School aims to promote and provide such activities both as a part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities.

**2.** The Governing Board of Thomas Fairchild Community School reserves the right to charge in the following circumstances for activities organised by school:

- The cost of all activities **MAINLY OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS** which are optional extras, i.e. evening trips and weekend visits.
- The cost of any board and lodging in any residential visit in school time or in any visit that takes place as part of the National Curriculum.
- The cost of ingredients and material (or require them to be provided) if the parents have indicated in advance that they wish to have the finished product

**3.** Where a pupil's parents receive income support or family credit the Governors will reduce the item in the second bullet point above.

4. Activities that take place inside school hours or as part of the National Curriculum will be completed dependent on voluntary contributions and this will be stated to parents. Such contributions will determine whether an activity is viable.

5. Trips may be cancelled if insufficient support is received. This applies to all activities (both charged and those where voluntary contributions are sought).

**6. THE GOVERNORS OF THOMAS FAIRCHILD PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL REQUEST PARENTS TO PAY FOR THE COST OF REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT OR OF PREMISES BROKEN OR DAMAGED DELIBERATELY BY PUPILS EITHER DURING OR OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS.**

7. The remission policy for charged activities will operate at the statutory minimum.

8. The Governors reserve the right to amend this policy from time to time.

9. The school's hours as referred to in this statement are 8.55 a.m. until 3.30p.m. on each school day where pupils are required to attend.

<b><i>Policy reviewed</i></b>	September 2021
<b><i>Adopted by Governing Body</i></b>	September 2021
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