

Charging And Remissions Policy



2024-27



School Vision Statement

At Stakeford Primary School we believe that each individual child is special and deserves to be valued in a happy, secure and caring learning environment.

We aim to recognise all children's abilities and attributes, and support them in reaching their full potential, helping them to shine.

We aim to work closely together with parents, carers and families, for the benefit of all our children, in an open and friendly atmosphere.

We aim to deliver a stimulating and challenging curriculum which is meaningful to all our children and will encourage them to become self-motivated, independent learners.

We believe all our children should feel proud and important members of our school family and community, taking responsibility for themselves and their surroundings and showing consideration for each other.

We expect high standards of behaviour and encourage honesty, kindness and cooperation.

Policy Rationale

In accordance with Sections 457 of the Education Act 1996, the Governing Body must publish its policy on charging and remissions. The original document can be viewed at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/457>

Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996, set out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools. The original documentation can be accessed from the contents page at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents>

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities can make towards a pupil's education and that some activities can incur an additional cost. In choosing such activities, the school aims to ensure the cost is balanced against the educational value of the activity, the cost is as low as possible and contributions received will not exceed the overall cost of the activity. Where available, the school will aim to access funding via grants to partially or fully cover the cost. Communication concerning the cost of educational visits will be accompanied by the following statement: No child will be excluded from an activity because his/her parents are unwilling or unable to pay.

Please note:

Charges for educational visits (other than residential visits) are voluntary contributions towards the costs charged by the venue and transport providers. Parents may choose not to contribute and that is their right. However, if there are insufficient contributions made and the school cannot raise the shortfall, then the visit will be cancelled.

Charging

In accordance with legislation, the Governing body makes no charge for education or educational activities provided during school hours as part of the published curriculum. However, the school can charge for the following:

- Materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them
- Optional Extra' activities outside school hours
- Residential visits partly or fully during school hours
- Music tuition
- Certain Early Years provision

- *Community facilities*

The following section outlines those planned activities for which Stakeford Primary School charges and how these charges will be calculated/managed.

Residential Visits

The cost of residential visits is calculated and divided equally by the number of pupils participating. When the cost of residential activities are calculated, these do not include subsidies for children on Free School Meals (FSM) or the cost of supply teachers to cover teaching staff involved. Parents are requested to meet the full cost of the residential visit for their child. Full remission from the charge of board and lodging will be provided where children are in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM). **This cost will be met from the school budget.**

Educational Visits (non-residential)

Parents are requested to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of educational visits during the school day. The cost of visits is calculated and divided equally by the number of pupils participating. Where available, the school will aim to access funding via grants to partially or fully cover the cost. Parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution. However, if the income for the activity does not meet the overall cost, such activities may be cancelled.

Swimming Lessons

Parents are requested to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of swimming lessons.

Music Tuition

There is no charge for group/class tuition provided as part of the first access KS2 instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme. Charges are made for individual tuition where an 'outside' tutor is provided, however the school does not provide this service at the time of this policy.

After School Activities

Where an external provider is engaged to provide an after school club and charges for their services, the cost per session will be divided equally between the number of children registered to take part. Where activities are run by school staff, there may be a small fee to cover the cost of additional consumable resources required for the activity.

Community Facilities

Schools are allowed to provide facilities that can be used by the local community. Schools can charge for the use of these facilities and a profit can also be generated provided it is spent on the purposes of the school and/or the community facilities. Should the facilities at Stakeford Primary School be provided for such purposes, the school will check the Local Authority's published financial scheme for maintained schools. At the time of writing this policy, the school does not provide any community lettings.

Wraparound Childcare

The school provides its own childcare provision. The charges made are to cover the cost of staffing and consumables. To keep the costs down, school endeavours to find and apply for grant provision.

Additional circumstances where the Governors reserve the right to charge parents:

- To replace equipment lost when it has been taken off the school premises;
- To repair wilful damage to school buildings/property.

Remissions

Remissions of charges will be applied to pupils in receipt of Free School Meals, whose parents are in receipt of the following benefits in respect of board and lodging costs for residential visits:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run on paid four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Letters to parents giving information of any such activity will invite parents in receipt of any of the above benefits and/or whose children are entitled to FSM to make the school aware of the situation so remission can be offered.

Parents can apply online for FSM via the following link:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx#schoolmeals>

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy every three years, or earlier in response to legislation changes.

Ratified 6.6.24

Review June 2027