



Marsh Green Primary School



Charging Policy

Charging Policy in Connection with Education at School



General

1. Section 457 of the Education Act 1996 requires that every governing body of a maintained school shall determine and keep under review a policy for charges in connection with school activities and school visits.
2. The policy also reflects the advice issued to governing bodies, school leaders, school staff and local authorities by the DFE “Charging for School Activities” (November 2013)
3. This policy makes the distinction between those school activities and school visits undertaken at Marsh Green Primary School for which the governing body is prohibited from charging and those school activities and school visits for which it is permitted to charge.

Prohibition of Charges

1. Marsh Green Primary School is prohibited from charging in respect of the following:
 - a) Admission

No charge shall be made in respect of admission to the school. The only circumstances where this does not apply is when admission is for the purpose of:

- Part-time education suitable to the requirements of persons of any age over compulsory school age;
- Full-time education suitable for the requirements of persons who have attained the age of 19; or
- Training for members of the school workforce.

- b) Provision of Education

All education provided during school hours is free to a pupil who is a registered pupil at the school. There are some exceptions which are:

- i. Music Tuition-
 - Charges may be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or to a group of two or more pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil’s parent.
 - The school cannot charge if the teaching is part of the national curriculum; where the tuition is part of the syllabus for a public examination for which the pupil is being prepared for by the school or is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme.
- ii. Early years Provision-
 - The school can charge for education which is early years provision provided that the early years provision is not made in pursuance of the duty imposed by section 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 or for early years provision for a pupil who is of compulsory school age.
- iii. Education provided outside of school hours-
 - No charge shall be made if it is part of the national curriculum, part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at school; part of religious education or early year’s provision in pursuance of the duty imposed by section 7 of the Childcare Act 2006.



c) Education provided partly during and partly outside of school hours

- i. Where an activity takes place partly during and partly outside school hours a charge can only be made for the activity outside school hours if it is not part of the national curriculum, not part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination that a pupil is being prepared for at the school and not part of religious education.
- ii. The basis for determining whether the activity is deemed to take place either inside or outside school hours is if 50% or more of the time together with any connected school travelling time falls during school hours. In any other case so much of the education provided during that period as is provided during school hours shall be treated as provided outside school hours. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day. "Connected school travelling time" means time spent during school hours by the pupils taking part in the activity concerned in getting to or from the place where the activity takes place.
- iii. Where any education is provided on a residential trip if the number of school sessions taken up by the trip is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of days spent on the trip. (Half day means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day). It is deemed to have taken place during school hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening).

d) Examinations

- i. Charges cannot be made in respect of an entry of a registered pupil at the school for a prescribed public examination in any syllabus for that examination for which the pupil has been prepared for school. There are however some expectations to the rule and these include:
 - In terms of wasted fees where the governing body of the school paid or are liable to pay a fee in respect of the entry of the pupil at the school for a public examination in any syllabus for that examination requirement for that syllabus the school may recover the amount of the fee from the pupil's parent.

e) Incidental charges

- i. A parent of a pupil registered at a school may not be charged for or asked to supply any materials, books, instruments or other equipment for, use in connection with, the statutory education provided in school, or a syllabus for a prescribed examination for which the pupil has been prepared at the school.
- ii. Incidental charges may be made for the supply of any materials used in the production of an article, in the course of the education of the pupil, where the parent has indicated in advance the payment that they wish the article to be owned by the pupil/parent.
- iii. Charges will not be made for transport provided for a registered pupil where the transfer is either incidental to the statutory education provided for the pupil at school or is required to allow a pupil to meet any examination for which the pupil has been prepared at the school. For these purposes, transport is incidental to statutory education provision if it is provided for the purpose of carrying such pupils to or from any part of the school premises in which education is provided or, to and from any place outside the school premises where such provision is made.

Permitted Charges

Charges may be made for some of the activities that are known as "optional extras".



Optional extras are:

- i. Education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - Part of the national curriculum;
 - Part of a syllabus for prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at school;
 - Part of religious education. ii. Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at school;
- iii. Additional transportation costs, which are not incidental to the education provided to registered pupil;
- iv. Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit;
- v. Music and vocal tuition in limited circumstances;
- vi. Certain early years provision;
- vii. The provision of facilities that can be used by the local community such as out of hours/holiday child care, summer school and sports club.

Any charge that is raised will be payable by the parents of the pupil concerned and will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra.

Voluntary Contributions

- i. Schools may invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions, for the benefit of the school or any other school activities. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions the governing body and headteacher should make this clear to parents at the outset of the fact that the activity may be cancelled if insufficient contributions are received. ii. The governing body or headteacher must also make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution. If parents are unwilling or unable to pay, their child must still be given an equal chance to go on the visit.
- iii. The information sent to parents and schools should make it clear at the outset what the policy for allocating places on school visits.

1. Exceptional circumstances and remissions

The school must ensure that guardians of pupils are aware of the help the school can extend to those in financial difficulty. Guardians who may be eligible for remissions are those in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- 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 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) did not exceed £16,190 in the previous financial year
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit



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- An income related employment and support allowance

1.1. In a case where there is, or it is suspected that there is, an overdue debt from a family who may qualify for remissions, details of the different types of bursary available should be sent to the debtor in question.

1.2. The resources committee is not guaranteed to, but may decide to waive or reduce the outstanding debt in these circumstances.

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1.3. In a case where there is, or it is suspected that there is, an overdue debt from a family who may qualify for remissions, details of the different types of bursary available should be sent to the debtor in question.

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