WIMBLEDON CHASE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Empowering individuals to thrive and contribute positively in a diverse and ever-changing world

Charges and Remissions Policy

September 2026

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1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on charging for school activities and the Education Act 1996, sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools in England.

It is also based on guidance from the DfE on statutory policies for schools and academy trusts.

3. Definitions

- **Charge**: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- **Remission**: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Governing Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Headteacher.

The Governing Body also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

In our school,

- responsibility for approving the Charging and Remissions Policy has been delegated to the School Business Committee and the Headteacher.
- monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the School Business Committee and the Headteacher.

4.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the Charging and Remissions Policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Our staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the Charging and Remissions Policy consistently
- Notifying the Headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out **what the school cannot charge for**:

5.1 Education

- Admission applications
- 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
    - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
    - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school

- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

5.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the Governing Body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school

5.3 Residential visits

- 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
    - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
    - Religious education
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out **what the school can charge for**.

6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional extras (see **6.2 Optional Extras**)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

6.2 Optional Extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, the school can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
    - The National Curriculum
    - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
    - Religious education

- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority/governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, nursery, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When 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
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases 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.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

6.3 Music tuition

The school can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, 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 giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

6.4 Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in Section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include, school trips, sports activities and workshops.

There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

8. Activities this school charges for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- Wraparound – before and after school care
- Nursery – extended hours
- After-school activities and sports clubs
- Transport to educational visits
- Transport, board and lodging for residential trips.

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the Governing Body and reviewed annually. Parents will be informed of the charges annually termly.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in Sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Governing Body and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

For residential trips organised in school time or mainly school time, to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of the board, lodging and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulties they are invited to write in confidence to Mrs Dotchin parentsupportadvisor@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk .

Parents in receipt of the following support payments, may be eligible to receive some help with covering the costs of board, lodgings and travel expenses.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit – provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit ~~– if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)~~

  Universal Credit – From the 1st September 2026 Families receiving Universal Credit with annual net earned income of £7,400 or less (after tax and excluding benefits) may be eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals and Pupil Premium.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The School Business Manager, the Headteacher and the School Business Committee monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by School Business Manager and the Headteacher annually and ratified by the School Business Committee annually.

School Development Area Leader: Caroline Gibbins

Linked Governor: Jonathan Hearn

Signed : Caroline Gibbins

Signed: Jonathan Hearn

Date agreed: September 2026

Review date: September 2027