



Charging and Remissions Policy

AIMS

To ensure that a broad range of activities, including practical subjects, school visits and journeys, take place and pupils are not prevented from participating on financial grounds.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

The school may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

- any activity that takes place during school hours
- school equipment
- school funds generally.

The contribution must be genuinely voluntary, though, and the pupils of parents who are unable or unwilling to contribute may not be discriminated against. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then it must be cancelled; a referral to the Headteacher will be made in cases such as this.

Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, then the school will seek reimbursement of any shortfall for all or any of these activities from the school's own resources.

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

Schools are permitted to charge for the cost of board and lodging during residential school trips. This cost must not exceed the actual cost of the provision.

Parents in receipt of the specified benefits listed in the DfE guidance "Charging for school Activities May 2018" are able to claim remission of those charges. The school may still request a voluntary contribution towards the costs.

A similar entitlement applies where the trip takes places outside of school hours but it is necessary as part of the National Curriculum, forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed examination that the school is preparing the pupil to sit, or the syllabus for religious education.

In addition to the above guidelines, in cases of hardship, families of pupils at John Chilton school are requested to contact the trip organiser and each pupil is considered on an individual basis. The shortfall may be made up from the school's resources.

SCHOOL MEALS

John Chilton School provides a lunch service to pupils.

Current free school meals eligibility criteria (not including Universal Free School meal entitlement):

Children whose parents are in receipt of one of the following will be entitled to receive free school meals:

- 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 - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals.

All pupils in years N, R 1 & 2 are also entitled to a FSM regardless of parents' income.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

No charges may be made for entering pupils for public examinations that are set out in regulations. However, an examination entry fee may be charged to parents if:

- the examination is on the set list, but the pupil was not prepared for it at the school
- the examination is not on the set list, but the school arranges for the pupil to take it
- a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing body or LA originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.

Charges may not be made for any cost associated with preparing a pupil for an examination. However, charging is allowed for tuition and other costs if a pupil is prepared outside school hours for an examination that is not set out in regulations.

LETTINGS

The school will make its facilities available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges will be determined annually by governing body. (Refer to the School Lettings Policy).

Agreed at Governors' Resources Committee: September 2017
Reviewed: April 2022