

Fountaindale School

Charging & Remissions Policy

Signed



Chair of Governors



Interim Executive Head Teacher

Date of Adoption: 18th December 2019

Due Review Date: Autumn 2020

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

At Fountaindale School the Governors recognise the importance of ensuring equal opportunity for all children and adults. The Governors will continue to ensure that this is an essential element of all school policies and actions.

The right to develop, learn and work in an environment free from discrimination is implicit in our school's ethos and embodied in its Vision

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to the principle of free education at the schools it maintains and believes that central to this principle is an entitlement curriculum to which all pupils should have free access as of right. Nottinghamshire County Council schools are resourced accordingly. It is not expected therefore that schools will charge for activities which have been resourced through their budgets.
2. The County Council recognises the valuable contribution schools can make to the range of educational experiences offered to their pupils by organising a range of visits and other non-classroom based activities, either inside or outside school hours. The County Council accepts that in these circumstances it may be necessary for a school to seek financial contributions from parents if the expenses of a particular activity cannot wholly be contained from within the funds normally available to the school.
3. In arranging activities for which a voluntary parental contribution may be sought, the County Council expects each school to bear in mind whether the requested contribution is reasonable and within the scope of the majority of parents of pupils at the school.
4. The County Council expects schools to operate within the law and not charge for those activities for which, legally, charges cannot be made. Within these legal constraints, however, the County Council recognises that each school's governing body is responsible for its own charging and remissions policy. The County Council would wish to encourage school governing bodies, in determining their policies in this respect, to be mindful of the financial circumstances of pupils and their parents. The County Council would also wish to remind school governing bodies that pupils may be assisted, at the governors' discretion, from the school's budget or other funds at their disposal and that pupils must not be excluded from any school activity that extends or enriches the curriculum for their class or group because they have not made a contribution to the cost.

CHARGING POLICY

General position

In recognition of its commitment to free education, Nottinghamshire County Council does not normally charge pupils or parents for any activity which it directly organises, except in the circumstances described in this document.

School governing body responsibilities

The responsibility for charging for other school activities, for which charges are permitted under the Education Act 1996, rests with each individual school governing body, although the County Council expects that in determining their charging policies school governors will be mindful of the general principles set out in this document.

Activities organised by the County Council

The Council may from time to time directly provide various activities and rehearsals for pupils at its schools. A similar range of activities may be organised for registered pupils who participate in various performance activities organised by the County Council. Fountaindale School pupils participate in these activities on a voluntary basis and the County Council reserves the right to make charges, where these are permitted by the Education Act 1996, in the following circumstances:

Activities organised by the School

The school may recover the full costs of the following activities which may be provided directly or through commissioned services but charges will not exceed actual cost.

- Educational or other activities provided wholly or mainly outside school hours
- Educational activities such as day trips or residential
- Educational activities when a specialist provider comes to school
- Which are not
 - a) Part of the national curriculum
 - b) Part of a syllabus prescribed for a public examination
 - c) Part of a religious activity
- Provision of instrumental tuition, which takes part in the day which has been requested by parents/carers

Any contribution sought will be entirely voluntary and pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents or carers made a contribution in response to any such invitation. If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

Residential activities held during school hours

Charges may be made at the discretion of the County Council for the board and lodging element of any residential activities which take place during school hours. Any such charge will be calculated by reference to the actual cost of providing board and lodging for each pupil; no other costs will be covered by the charge.

Any remission arrangements for activities of this type will be at the discretion of the Director of Children and Young People's Services through the Head Teacher, except in the circumstances described below.

Residential activities held outside school hours

Charges may be made at the discretion of the Council for these activities. Any such charge will not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating in the activity. The cost of other pupils participating in the activity will not be included in the charge. The charge may, however, include an appropriate element for the following, as appropriate:

- The pupil's travel costs
- The pupil's board and lodging costs
- Non-teaching staff costs
- Materials, instruments and other equipment
- Entrance fees to places of interest
- Insurance costs
- Administration costs relating to the trip
- The expenses only of any participating teachers engaged on a separate contract for services to provide the activity;

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out above. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

REMISSION POLICY

The Council has determined the following policies which partly or wholly remit certain charges which may be payable by pupils and their parents. The remission policy set out below relates to pupils attending schools maintained by Nottinghamshire County Council and in certain cases is only available to those pupils who actually live in Nottinghamshire.

Outdoor and Environmental education

The Council provides a range of day and residential outdoor and environmental education centres for pupils attending Nottinghamshire Council schools. Schools are charged a proportion of the running costs for the centres. These charges are, however, partially remitted, in the case of visits which take place mainly during school hours, to reflect the number of pupils attending who are eligible for free school meals.

Board and lodging charges for residential trips

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and has an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit