



Eccleston C.E. Primary School
Let Our Light Shine

Charging and Remissions Policy

Buildings, Health & Safety and Finance Committee

Reviewed: Spring 2020

Approved by Buildings, Health & Safety and Finance Committee:
Spring 2020

Approved by Full Governing Board: Spring 2020

Signed by Chair of Governors:

Review Date: Spring 2021

ECCLESTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Charging and Remissions Policy

The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced new provisions on charging for school activities.

The purposes of these provisions are:

- To maintain the right to a free school education
- To ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within normal school time should be available to all pupils, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost
- To give local authorities and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours
- To confirm that schools may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, either in or outside school hours.

The Governors believe that activities such as swimming and educational visits (or visitors) are an extension to, and an enrichment of the curriculum. They have adopted the LA Policy of Charging for School Activities, which allows the school to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to support these activities. The policy is reviewed annually.

Introduction

All education during school hours is free, except for individual music tuition. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the Early Years or National Curriculum.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip.

All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the

school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded and the school would provide this information on request. In the case of Residential trips when school must make a commitment in advance, any deposit received from the parents will be non-refundable.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, where we seek voluntary contributions from parents.

This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums or art galleries.
- sporting activities which require transport expenses.
- outdoor adventure activities.
- visits to the theatre.
- musical events

Residential visits

If a child participates in a residential visit, we make a charge to cover the costs of any workshops, board, lodging and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty, they are invited to speak in confidence to the Headteacher.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. If a class is participating in Wider Opportunities music lessons (this is a scheme organised by the LA), there will be no charge. There is a charge for individual music tuition provided by peripatetic teachers (Music or Life). These are voluntary and parents are charged directly.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children from Year 2 to Year 6, with supplementary lessons for those in Year 6 who are yet to achieve the end of KS2 requirements.

These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for the swimming lessons but request a contribution for the cost of the coach to take the children to the City Baths in Chester. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

Lettings charges

Lettings are charged at a rate recommended by Cheshire West and Chester County Council.