

Central Primary School



Charging Policy Autumn 2025

Head Teacher

Chairperson

Policy on Charging for School Activities

Introduction

Central Primary School is committed to providing a high-quality, inclusive education for all pupils, regardless of their background or financial circumstances. We believe that every child should have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities and experiences offered by the school. This policy outlines our approach to charging and remissions, ensuring compliance with Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996, which sets out the law regarding what charges can and cannot be made for activities in maintained schools.

Legal Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 1996 (Sections 449-462). The Act states that education provided wholly or mainly during school hours must be free of charge, and it defines the circumstances under which schools may charge for certain activities, request voluntary contributions, or offer remissions.

Voluntary Contributions

General Principle:

No charge will be made for education provided during school hours, including materials, books, and equipment required for the curriculum.

Voluntary Contributions:

The school may invite parents and carers to make voluntary contributions to support activities that enrich the curriculum, such as educational visits, workshops, or special events. These contributions are entirely voluntary, and no pupil will be excluded from an activity because their parent or carer is unable or unwilling to contribute.

Cancellation of Activities:

If insufficient voluntary contributions are received to fund a particular activity, and the school cannot cover the shortfall, the activity may be cancelled.

Charges for Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-Curricular Activities:

A small charge will be made for extra-curricular activities that take place outside of normal school hours. The amount charged will be kept to a minimum to ensure accessibility for all pupils.

External Providers:

Where extra-curricular activities are provided by an external agency or specialist provider, the cost may be higher to reflect the provider's fees. Parents and carers will be informed in advance of any charges and the reasons for them.

Examples:

Examples of chargeable extra-curricular activities may include after-school clubs, sports coaching, music lessons, or holiday clubs.

Charges for Other Activities

- Individual or Small Group Music Tuition:
- Charges may be made for individual or small group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus.
- Materials, Books, Instruments, or Equipment:
- Where parents wish their child to own particular materials, books, instruments, or equipment, a charge may be made to cover the cost.
- Board and Lodging on Residential Visits:
- Charges will be made for the cost of board and lodging for residential visits, except for pupils eligible for certain benefits (see Remissions section).
- Optional Extras:
- Charges may be made for optional extras provided outside of school hours, such as theatre trips, holiday activities, or additional tuition.

Remissions and Support

Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals:

- The school will ensure that pupils eligible for free school meals, or whose families are experiencing financial hardship, are not disadvantaged. In such cases, the school may offer full or partial remission of charges for activities, at the Headteacher's discretion.
- Confidentiality: All requests for financial support or remission will be treated confidentially and with sensitivity.
- Communication: Information about the availability of support and remissions will be communicated clearly to parents and carers.

Monitoring and Review

- Annual Review: This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body to ensure it remains fair, transparent, and in line with statutory requirements and best practice.
- Reporting: The Headteacher will report to the Governing Body on the operation of the policy, including the uptake of activities and the impact of remissions.

Breakages and Damage

Where a pupil's behaviour results in damage to school property or equipment, parents may be asked to pay for the necessary repair or replacement. Each incident should be dealt with on its own merit and at the schools' discretion.