

**FRESHFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY**

**RATIONALE**

- The Governing Body of Freshford Church of England Primary School recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities, including instrumental and vocal tuition, trips, visits, after-school activities and residential experiences can make towards a child's education.

**AIMS**

- To ensure that every child has equal and full access to the benefits deriving from the wide range of activities offered by the school, all of which enhance their educational experience
- When constructing the annual budget, consideration should be given to making prudent provision for the potential cost of activities for which contributions will be sought
- Should there be a significant shortfall in voluntary contributions received to make the activity viable, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then the activity will be cancelled
- With regard to surpluses and deficits, the school shall retain any surpluses to help balance inevitable deficits

**Guidelines on Charges / Voluntary contributions**

**Visits and Trips**

- When organising day trips, events or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents/carers to contribute towards these costs.

- If a parent / carer wishes their child to take part in a school day trip, visit or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. At times the school must pay from the school budget in order to support such trips / activities.
- Parents / carers have a right to know how each visit or trip is funded and the school is happy to provide this information on request.
- When the school organises the annual residential trip to Skern Lodge, parents / carers are asked to contribute towards the cost of transport, board, lodging and activities undertaken.
- We make no differentiation between those children whose parents are able to contribute and those who are unable to do so. Parents may approach the school in total confidence if they are unable to meet the costs of such a residential trip. Any request for financial support will be considered on an individual basis and the PTA may be approached to give anonymous financial support.

### **Music Tuition**

- All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.
- Individual or group instrumental lessons beyond that which is covered by the National Curriculum are delivered by the B&NES Music Service peripatetic teachers. From April 2016 the payment for such lessons are made by parents directly to the Music Service. The school sends parents / carers information about such tuition and arrangements for payment at the start of each academic year.

Should the parent of a child in receipt of Free School Meals express an interest in learning a particular musical instrument which is part of current provision, the Music Service can offer a 50% reduction in fees for a group lesson and the loan of a musical instrument free of charge. Parents should approach the school in the first instance.

### **Vocal Tuition**

- Individual or group vocal tuition beyond that which is covered by the National Curriculum is currently delivered by Kate Courage. The charge for such sessions will be made by parents directly to Kate Courage. Information is sent to parents /carers about such tuition and arrangements for payment at the start of the academic year.

Should the parent of a child in receipt of Free School Meals express an interest in their child attending vocal tuition sessions they should approach the school in the first instance to see whether a reduction in fees can be secured.

- Opportunity is generally given for pupils to participate, on a competitive basis, in speech, drama and singing activities associated with the annual, locally arranged Mid-Somerset Music & Drama Festival. An entrance fee is payable to the Mid-Somerset Festival, but should a parent/carers of a child

in receipt of Free School Meals express an interest in their child competing in this Festival they should approach the school in the first instance to see whether assistance can be given.

### **Swimming**

- The school currently organises a block of swimming lessons at Clarendon Pool, Trowbridge for KS2 children who are unable to swim 25m, as we believe that being able to swim is a vital life skill. These sessions take place in school time and form part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity which is currently funded by the Schools PE Grant. We inform parents / carers when these lessons are to take place and ask parents for permission for their child to take part in these sessions.

### **Charging for materials**

- Should any contributions be sought for specific materials beyond those which are used as part of normal curriculum activities, parents / carers will be advised that the continuance of this activity may depend upon voluntary contributions, but no child will be excluded from such an activity if requested voluntary contributions are not forthcoming.

### **After School Activities**

- The school offers a wide range of after school activities. Qualified coaches, who are not members of the school staff, run and organize the majority of these sessions and have responsibility for the children at this time. The individual providers make a reasonable charge for these sessions and payment is made directly to them by the parents / carers.
- Parents and carers whose children are in receipt of Free School Meals may approach the school in total confidence if they are wish their child to participate in any after school activity for which they are unable to pay. Any request for financial support will be considered on an individual basis.

### **Financial assistance**

- In the interests of confidentiality, authorisation for any financial assistance relating to the above will be made in the first instance by the headteacher and advised to the Chair of Governors.
- Special arrangements may be made with the PTA in the event of financial assistance being sought in relation to the annual residential visit and with the school in relation to any of the other items above.

### **Pupil Premium**

- The Governors ensure that Pupil Premium is deployed by the school in such a manner as to directly benefit those children identified as being in receipt of this payment.

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