

Charging & Remissions Policy

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Committee	Staffing & Resources
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Charging and remissions policy for Deptford Green School

Introduction

We want all our pupils to have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities, both on and off site, within and outside the curriculum, regardless of their family's financial means. This policy sets out our school approach to charging and remissions, and is informed by local authority guidance. In doing this our intention is to ensure transparency in setting charges and ensure all children are able to access all the provision on offer.

This policy does not apply to charges made and determined by other organisations offering activities and services on the school premises.

1	Admissions	No charge will be made for admission.
2	School meals	No charge will be made for pupils entitled to free school meals.
		We will charge all pupils not entitled to free school meals an amount determined by the local authority, contractor or governing body of the school, as appropriate.
3	Public examinations	No charge will be made for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list and the pupil has been prepared at the school.
		Where supported by school, we will not charge parents for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list, but the pupil was not prepared for it at school.
		Where supported by school, we will not charge parents the entry fee if the examination is not on the set list, but school has arranged for the pupil to take it
		We may charge parents the examination fee if a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of a public examination where the school originally paid the entry fee. This will be decided by the Headteacher.
4	Activities for pupils that take place during school hours (‘School hours’ are those when school is actually in session and do not include the break in the middle of the school day)	No charge will be made for activities provided during school hours
		No charge will be made for transport during school hours e.g. to swimming.
		Parents will need to buy occasional ingredients for food technology
5	Activities for pupils that take place outside school hours (non-residential)	No charge will be made for an activity that takes place outside school hours when it is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a necessary part of the curriculum part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education

		<p><u>Optional extras</u> We may charge for some other activities that take place outside school hours. The Headteacher will decide which activities we make a charge for. The levels of charge (including any remissions) will be set annually on the recommendation of the Headteacher and the finance committee.</p> <p>Where we make a charge, the total collected will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise the cost to other pupils by paying more than an amount equal to the total cost of the activity divided by the number of pupils participating.</p> <p>Costs we can legally recover are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra b) non-teaching staff c) any materials, books, instruments or equipment
6	Activities that take place partly during school hours either on or off site (non-residential).	<p>Where the majority of time spent on a non-residential activity is within school hours, we must treat the activity as if it is fully within school hours, and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 4.</p> <p>If the majority of the time spent on a non-residential activity is outside school hours, we must treat the activity as if it happens fully outside school hours, and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 5.</p>
7	Residential Trips	<p>Residential Trips are classified as being within school hours if the number of school sessions missed by the pupils is at least 50% of the number of half days spent on the trip.</p> <p>The majority of our residential trips, whether considered as being within school hours, or outside of school hours are optional extras and will be charged for as described in section 5.</p>
8	Music tuition within school hours	Music tuition cannot be charged for unless the tuition has been asked for by the parents
9	Essential Equipment	We will charge for replacement equipment lost or damaged, if originals were provided freely
10	Damage to property and breakages	<p>We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of school property. This will be determined by the Head Teacher.</p> <p>We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of property belonging to a third party where the school has been charged. This will be determined by the Head Teacher.</p>

11	Remissions and concessions	<p>We will comply with legal requirements for remissions as outlined throughout this document, for pupils defined as eligible.</p>
		<p>We may choose to subsidise, in full or part, charges for certain activities and pupils, as determined by the Governing Body, advised by the Head Teacher. The circumstances in which concessions are applied will be reviewed regularly.</p>
12	Voluntary contributions	<p>We may in certain circumstances invite parents to make a voluntary contribution towards activities that are exempt from charging.</p> <p>Where we do ask for voluntary contributions, we will make it clear that children of parents who choose not to contribute will not be treated differently from those who do. No pupil will be excluded from the activity if their parents do not contribute.</p> <p>If an activity cannot go ahead without sufficient voluntary contributions, this will be explained to parents when the contribution is requested. If the activity has to be cancelled due to insufficient funds, all monies received will be returned to parents.</p>