

Greystoke Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

Following the Education Act 1996 and the DfE advice October 2014, the advisory board has a duty to state a policy on charging for school related activities.

Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out that:

- If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions the parents will be notified of this from the outset.
- No child will be excluded from an activity because the parents are unable to pay.
- If insufficient contributions are raised the trip or activity may have to be cancelled.
- If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay their child will be given an equal chance to go on the visit.

Introduction

The Advisory Board recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of activities, including educational visits and residential experiences, can make to the pupils' social and emotional education and therefore encourages such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Educational and residential trips need to be funded by voluntary contributions from parents which cover the costs of the visit which are of strong educational value.

No child will be excluded from participating in an activity which the school has organised for educational purposes because of unwillingness or inability to pay by parents. The school is always happy to discuss payment arrangements. However, parents should be aware that some activities may not go ahead if costs cannot be met by voluntary contributions.

There will be a different charging procedure for activities which are deemed outside school hours and this will be made clear at the time, if and when these activities are planned eg, residential or theatre trips.

The school will always seek to achieve 'best value principles' for all the activities such as seeking three quotes before deciding which transport company to choose. All staff are conscious of the rising costs of education and family budgets and will always try to keep all costs to a minimum. Contributions are used to cover the costs of the trip and the school makes no profit.

Swimming

These lessons take place in school time and all children from Reception to Year 4 attend every week. Parent's voluntary contributions are a vital part of the school being able to provide and maintain this facility which can be life - saving.

Educational day visits and visiting educational activities.

In order to support and enhance the school curriculum and give children the opportunity to explore learning through practical means all year groups organise educational day visits. In order to achieve this, the school will ask parents for a voluntary donation of the cost of the trip to their child. Trips will be organised where similar or same activities cannot be achieved in school.

Residential visits

The school organises residential visits in school time to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we ask parents to make a voluntary contribution for the educational activities. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board, lodging and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulties they are invited to write confidentially to the Head Teacher. There are a range of payment plans that the school can organise.

Currently Year 2 visit Beaumanor Hall for outdoor activities for 3 days. Year 4 visit Kingswood for outdoor adventurous activities for 3 days. Year 6 visit Staffordshire for outdoor and adventurous activities for 5 days.

Music Tuition

All children study music as part of the National Curriculum and we do not charge for this. In Year 4 all children learn to play the fife and parents are offered the opportunity to purchase a fife. Those children who don't have an instrument will be able to borrow a school instrument.

There is a charge for individual or group tuition taught by peripatetic music teachers who charge the parents directly for their services.

Advisory Board members also reserve the right to charge for:

- Damage to fixtures and fittings and loss or damage to equipment, including books.
- The cost of materials or ingredients for Art, Design Technology and cookery when the products are taken home.