



Netherton Infant and Nursery School

Charges, Voluntary Contributions and Remissions Policy

We are aware that under the Education Reform Act 1988, no charge can be made for education in school hours and that every child has the right to receive free school education.

We recognise that all activities offered during normal teaching time must be made available to all children, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.

We recognise the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, educational visits and residential experiences, can make towards a pupil's personal and social education.

It is our intention to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and as additional activities.

Therefore, any activity which takes place in school and mainly during school hours or is an essential part of the curriculum will be provided free of charge.

We are aware that we are able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents when organising educational visits which will enrich the curriculum and the educational experiences of children.

Aim

- To outline what the school can and cannot charge for.
- To outline the school policy for voluntary contributions and remissions.

Procedure

Role of the Governing Body

The GB has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure that school personnel, parents and pupils know the details of this policy.
- responsibility for the effective implementation.
- the responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that school personnel, parents and pupils know the details of this policy.
- ensure that everyone complies with the implementation of this policy.
- monitor this policy.
- annually report to the GB on the effectiveness of this policy.

Conditions when charges cannot be made

Charges cannot be made for any books, materials, instruments, equipment or transport for use in connection with education if the education is:

- within school hours;
- for statutory religious education;
- for musical tuition as part of the National Curriculum;
- for education provided on any educational visit during the school day;
- for education provided on any educational visit outside school hours;
- for the cost of supply teachers substituting for absent teachers on residential visits with pupils;

Charges for transport cannot be made when:

- transporting pupils to or from the school premises;
- transporting pupils to other premises where arrangements have been made for them to be educated;
- an educational visit has been planned

Conditions when charges can be made

Charges can be made when:

- a parent/carer wishes their child to own any specific materials, books, instruments or equipment;
- property or equipment has been damaged as a result of a pupil's behaviour
- any hours over and above the 15 hours free entitlement for children who attend our nursery and are below 5 years of age.

Charging for Optional Extras

Charges may be levied for:

- optional extra activities if parents are willing to accept a charge for the costs.
- an activity that takes place outside school hours.
- any activity provided they do not exceed the actual cost of the activity divided equally by the number of pupils participating.
- any materials, books, instruments, equipment or tuition fees for providing education that is not part of the National Curriculum or part of religious education.
- the cost of board and lodging on a residential visit.
- transport provided for any activity.
- musical tuition that is not part of the National Curriculum.
- extended day services e.g. after school clubs

Support for Parents/Carers

The GB offers:

- support for any parent/carer in paying for any activity for an individual pupil if they are experiencing financial difficulties;
- the assistance of the Friends of Netherton (FONS) that will support parent/carers who are unable to pay voluntary contributions which can be accessed at the Head Teacher's discretion.

Voluntary Contributions

We are aware that we can ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers that will benefit the school or any school activity.

We will inform parent/carers:

- if planned activities depend on voluntary contributions for part or all of the cost.
- that there is no obligation on them to make voluntary contributions.
- that an educational visit or activity will be cancelled if sufficient costs are not raised via voluntary contributions.
- that no pupil will be excluded from an educational visit or activity if a parent/carer is unwilling or unable to pay.

Remissions

We will remit any charge wholly or partly if any activity takes place:

- mostly within school hours or;
- partly within and partly outside school hours

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

Annually the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed, or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the GB.