

Heathcote Primary School



Charging and Remissions Policy

Date adopted by Governors:	May 2022
Date for policy review:	May 2024
Person responsible for review:	Executive Head Teacher
Signed by Chair of Governors	

1 Background

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

2 Voluntary Contributions for Activities as Part of the Curriculum

When arranging school trips, visits or workshop activities, which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the activity. All contributions are voluntary, however we reserve the right to cancel the activity if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, the child is still allowed to participate fully in the trip or activity as long as parental consent has been given. However, the school reserves the right to cancel trips / events should they become financially unviable.

If appropriate and funds allow, the school may pay a proportion of the costs in order to support a visit. The school is always willing to provide a breakdown of costs on request. When a trip is arranged, parents will be informed that if voluntary contributions do not cover the majority of the costs (90%), the trip will not take place.

3 Voluntary Contributions for Activities outside of the Curriculum

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive:

- Sporting activities which require transport expenses before/after school
- Outdoor adventure activities before/after school
- Visits to the theatre before/after school
- School trips abroad before/after school
- Music Events before/after school
- Swimming tuition including transport costs to and from venue

4 Music Tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. Extra-curricular clubs run by Heathcote Primary staff, such as choir, are also without charge.

There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. This charge is paid to the County Music Services which provides peripatetic music teachers to teach individuals or small group lessons on the school site.

We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year. If payments are not received, parents will be asked to consider if they wish to continue with lessons and make up back payments.

The school cannot subsidise continual non-payment for music lessons and if contributions are not forthcoming, the school reserves the right to stop lessons. Arrears of more than half a term will lead to the ending of lessons.

Parents will be asked to sign a contract before starting music lessons, which will clearly state the arrangements for payment and the procedure that will be followed if there are areas of concern.

5 Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons usually for Years 4 – 6 children. Lessons take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We ask for a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of tuition and transport.

We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, the breakdown of costs and we ask for their written permission for their child to take part in these. Children should take part in swimming lessons, even if they attend private lessons out of school, in order to fulfil National Curriculum requirements.

Where parents are unable to pay the weekly swimming contribution, they are invited to see the Head of School or Executive Head in confidence to make arrangements to pay what they can afford. (This may be a lower rate than other children).

6 Optional Extra Activities - Chargeable

Activities which take place wholly or mainly outside school hours and are not required in order to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to Religious Education.

Charges to parents for after school activities are based on costs incurred to the school to run the club and are not profitable.

It is the Governors policy to charge for activities organised by the school but provided by outside bodies. The basis for calculating the charge will be proportionate for each participating pupil for travel, board and lodging, materials, books, equipment, entrance fees and insurance.

7 Activities Not Run by the School

When an organisation, acting independently of the school, arranges an activity to take place during school hours and parents want their children to join the activity, such organisation may charge parents.

8 Residential Visits

The cost of residential visits includes boards and lodgings, transport, materials, entrance to any sites visited and charges for any activities to be experienced. These costs will be charged for to ensure costs are covered.

Costs incurred for any additional staff needed as a result of required pupil/adult ratio requirements will be added to the total cost.

Arrangements maybe made for children of families on forms of income support or in special circumstances to enable them to take part in these visits. This is stated clearly on letters and is dealt with discretely and in confidence by the Head Teacher. Parents will be given the option of a payment plan to spread the costs of the residential visit, a reduced payment or completely free visit at the discretion of the Head Teacher and subject to available funds.

9 Charging in Kind

The cost of ingredients, materials, equipment etc needed for practical subjects such as food technology or DT is budgeted for and borne by the school.

However, the school may charge for or require the supply of ingredients and materials if the product is to be owned and taken home by the child afterwards e.g. food products, models containing electrical equipment or batteries.

10 Breakages and Fines

The Governors reserve the right to ask parents to pay for the cost of replacing any item such as:

- Broken windows
- Defaced, damaged or lost items
- Replacement exercise books or library books
- Any item damaged as a result of unsatisfactory pupil behaviour according to the school code of conduct

11 Special Educational Needs

The Governing Body confirms that no pupil with special educational needs or disabilities will be treated any differently than any other pupil. The school will take all reasonable steps to avoid putting children with special needs at a disadvantage. When special provision is necessary to support a child with special educational needs, resources will be made available from EHCP or special needs budget.

12 Payment Arrangements

Parents may contact the Head of School, Executive Head of Finance Officer in confidence to discuss difficulties in making payments. Individual arrangement will be made, including payments spread over a longer period of time, to ensure that no child is personalised due to financial hardship.

13 Review

The School Standards Committee will review the effectiveness of these charges at least annually. This policy will be revised every two years or sooner if required.

