



Castle Hill Primary School Charging & Remissions Policy 2026

Last reviewed: July 2026

Reviewed by: Head Teacher & SBM

Review frequency: Annually

Approved by: Full Governing Body

Review next due: July 2027



Introduction

The Head Teacher and Governing Body recognise the value of providing a wide range of experiences to enrich and extend pupils' learning and to contribute to their personal development. The Head Teacher and Governing Body aims to promote and provide such experiences for the pupils of the school, both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and as additional optional activities.

However, many of these activities have an associated cost and cannot be provided until voluntary contributions are received or parents are charged for the cost.

This policy will set out the circumstances in which charges will or will not be made for school activities and when charges may be waived in order to ensure that all pupils have an equal opportunity to benefit from school visits, curricular and extracurricular activities.

Statement:

The policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

Where 'parent' is referred to, this will include adults with parental responsibility for the pupil.

We aim:

- To make school activities accessible to all pupils regardless of family income.
- To encourage and promote external activities, which give added value to the curriculum.
- To provide a process, which allows activities to take place at a minimum cost to parents, pupils and the school.
- To respond to the wide variations in family income while not adding additional unexpected burdens to the school budget.

Legislation – Educational During School Hours

The DfE in its' guidance (Charging For School Activities May 2018) states 'School governing boards and local authorities, subject to the limited exceptions referred to in this advice, cannot charge for education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment'.

It goes on to state: 'Nothing in legislation prevent a school governing body or local authority from asking for a voluntary contribution for the benefit of the school or any school activities. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the governing body or Headteacher should make this clear to parents at the outset'.

When additional costs are incurred by Castle Hill Primary School to enhance the curriculum opportunities for the pupils, parents may be requested to make voluntary contributions. However, no pupil will be left out of an activity because his or her parents cannot or will not make a contribution of any kind. However, without sufficient income to meet the full cost, such activities may have to be cancelled.

Education Outside School Hours

The DfE in its guidance to School Governors states that 'parents can only be charged for activities that happen outside school hours when these activities are not a necessary part of the national curriculum or religious education. No charge can be made for activities that are an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination. Charges may be made for other activities that happen outside school hours if parents agreed to pay'. The Education Reform Act 1988 described activities which can be charged for as 'optional extras'.

Remissions

To ensure that access to activities reflects intentions, Castle Hill Primary School will implement the following Remissions Policy. The fundamental aim of this policy is to ensure that all pupils gain fully from everything that the school is able to offer them and is based on an understanding of the relationship between low income, entitlement and access. This policy takes into account the very real and persistent difficulties which people on low incomes have in meeting the costs of education activities for their children.

There may be cases of family hardship which make it difficult for pupils to take part in other particular activities for which a charge is made. When arranging a chargeable activity the Governing Body will invite parents to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. This can be made in confidence via a verbal conversation directly with the Headteacher or via an email to admin@castlehill.gloucs.sch.uk which will be sent on to the Head for review. Review and authorisation of remission will be made by the Head Teacher.

Data Protection of pupils and families

Teachers will ensure that these children are not publicly identified and stigmatised. This is particularly important as the fear of stigmatisation is often a key element in the non-take up of Free School Meals. This will be accomplished by developing methods of collecting voluntary charges or dinner money, which do not identify children who do not contribute.

Contributions

Voluntary contributions may be requested to help with providing activities even though they may be part of the normal school day or part of the National Curriculum e.g. educational trips.

If voluntary contributions are requested for an activity it should be clearly understood that there is no obligation to contribute and that if the parent is unable or unwilling to pay, the child will not be excluded from the activity.

If sufficient voluntary contributions are not received, the activity will be cancelled.

If a child is absent on the day of the trip/activity the school reserves the right to only refund the cost of the entry fee, where the school has not already paid. The cost of the coach, however, will not be refunded.

The 'Friends' fundraising supports currently £4 per child per academic year towards the cost of trips.

Charges

The Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge for activities and items detailed below.

Residential Trips in school time	Parents are asked to meet the full cost of the residential visit, this amount being a voluntary contribution for activities in school hours and a full charge for all costs outside of school hours, e.g board and lodging, coach etc. Children with EHCP's, Children in care and children eligible for free school meals may be eligible to be supported by school finance contributions. Prior agreement with the Head Teacher would need to be requested should financial subsidy payments be required (see remissions section above). If the income for each activity does not meet the overall cost, such activities may have to be cancelled.
Activities outside of school hours not within the National Curriculum	Children with EHCP's, Children in care and children eligible for free school meals may be eligible to be supported via school finance contributions. Prior agreement with the Head Teacher would need to be requested should financial subsidy payments be required (see remissions section above). If income for each activity does not meet the overall cost, such activities may have to be cancelled.
Ingredients/materials for practical subjects	Parents are encouraged to provide a voluntary contribution for materials for practical subjects, but no child will be prevented from engaging in these activities because of parents' inability/reluctance to pay.

Lost school equipment, books etc	Parents may be requested to replace school equipment, books etc, which have been lost by a child.
Breakages and damages to school buildings, furniture or property	Wilful damage to school buildings or property by a pupil may be charged to parents by the school.