

Milverton School Charging & Remission Policy

January 2016



Approved by the Governing Body of Milverton School

Chair of Governors Mr. Ewan Robertson

Date

Proposed Date of Future Review: January 2019.

Purpose of Policy

We believe that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered at the same time try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

The Governors agree that in order to run school trips, parents/carers should be asked to make a voluntary contribution to the cost of the trip. No child will be excluded from the trip if parents/carers fail to make a contribution. It will be pointed out however that it is possible that if insufficient parents/carers consider the activity worthy of their support the school will be unable to run the activity.

Families qualifying for remission or help with charges

Those families in receipt of:

- Free School Meals
- Income support
- Income based jobseekers allowance
- Support under part VI of the immigration and asylum act 1999
- Family Tax Credit, providing that working tax credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) does not exceed the sum given in the Revenue and Customs rules
- Guaranteed state pension

will be asked to make a voluntary contribution to the cost of the trip that will be fixed at a 20 % reduction.

Additional categories of parents may claim help with some costs in some circumstances, which will be decided by the Board of Governors taking into account as to whether additional help is justified.

School Trips

All parents/carers will be told that it is not possible for school trips to be funded by the school. It will be emphasised that there is no obligation to contribute and that no pupil will be omitted from the activity or treated differently according to whether or not their parents/carers decide to contribute

School Swimming

Parents/carers are asked to make a fixed weekly voluntary contribution to the cost of school swimming. The school budget will make good any shortfall after parental contributions.

Instrument Music Tuition Charges

A charge payable to the LA music organisation, ‘Somerset Music’, or independent peripatetic music teachers will be levied for all instrumental music tuition to individuals and small groups of pupils. Independent music teachers will be responsible for the setting and collection of fees from parents/carers. The provision of tuition by independent music teachers is made by agreements existing between the music teachers and parents/carers. In this case the administration of music tuition is not handled by school staff, even though lessons are provided on the school premises.

Charges for materials used in making models/etc.

Occasionally teachers will ask parents/carers to make a contribution towards the cost of an activity. The governors recognise that such payments will be purely voluntary and no child will be prevented from participating in or receiving their work if they have not made a contribution.

After School Clubs

Parents/carers will be asked to pay for activities in the After School Sports Club programme as the clubs will take place out of school hours and the tutors will be paid coaching rates. Similarly, Parents/carers will be asked to pay for Toasties and Morning Club sessions in order to cover the cost of employing staff in the setting.

School Residential Visits

The Governors agree that all parents/carers can be asked for contributions in support of school residential visits. They agree that parents/carers can be charged for the board and lodging element of a residential activity but any such charges will be reduced to parents/carers in receipt of the financial support listed above by 20% on request. If parents/carers do not pay for their child to attend, without prior agreement with the Headteacher, the school reserves the right to educate the child in school for the duration of the visit. Parents will always be made aware of such arrangements in advance of the residential visit. School staff are committed to work closely with parents/carers to enable every child to attend before any child is omitted from a residential visit.

Pupil Premium / Service Children Grant

The Pupil Premium and Service Family Grants may be used to support school activities at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Additional considerations

The Board of Governors recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end we will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

We have established a system for parents to pay in instalments

When an opportunity for a trip arises at short notice it will be possible to arrange to pay by instalments beyond the date of the trip.

We acknowledge that offering opportunities on a “first pay, first served” basis discriminates against pupils from families on lower incomes and we will avoid that method of selection.