

CHRIST CHURCH C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Vision

"As God loves us all, our vision at Christ Church is for everyone in our family to feel equal, valued and prepared for life in modern British society. While walking humbly with our God, our children will become wise, compassionate, independent and resilient learners in an inclusive and safe environment. We strive for success, spiritual fulfilment and a life lived 'in all its fullness'.

Believe and Achieve!"

Book of Micah: Verse 6:8

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Mission:

Serving God's Community

In developing a greater understanding of Christian and other faiths within the community, we seek to develop the personality and potential of all, and to understand that we are created equally by God.

We are committed to providing an outstanding education to prepare our children for adult life in modern Britain in our locality by living in harmony before God.

By developing the social, moral and cultural and spiritual dimensions of pupils the school seeks to equip them to make a positive contribution to the community.

In finding time to be still and reflect, we seek to foster spirituality and a deeper relationship with God.

1. Introduction

Christ Church C.E. Primary School is committed to providing quality education based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. In practice, this means the children have an entitlement to benefit from all educational activities and to:-

- Participate fully in school curriculum;
- Contribute to all aspects of school life;
- Be a valued partner in the process of education.

These objectives must be seen to inform educational activities, whether in or outside the school and are therefore integral to the process of charging for school activities and to the remission which is available to parents/guardians who are on low income. We aim:-

- To make school activities accessible to all students 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.
- We recognize that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged neither will all socially disadvantaged pupils be registered or qualify for free school meals therefore Pupil Premium will be used to support all pupil in school.

The development of a range of activities forms part of the school's forward planning process and is linked to the annual budget cycle with a particular emphasis on the identification of specific resources to support such activities.

It includes a number of key factors:-

- The value of certain activities in relation to age/needs of pupils;
- The cost of activity set against their educational value;
- How the activity will be paid for;
- The appropriate process for raising funding;
- An assessment of whether the educational aims can be met in any other way;
- An assessment of local facilities.

2. Legislation – Education During School Hours

The DFE in its guidance to school governors states that “education provided during school hours must be free”. The definition of “education” includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by the LA or the school to carry pupils between the school and an activity. It goes on to advise that “although schools cannot charge for school time activities, they still invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions (in cash or in kind) ...the essential point is that no pupil may be left out of an activity because his or her parents cannot or will not make a contribution of any kind.”

3. Education Outside School Hours

“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 agree to pay. The Education Act 1996 described activities which can be charged for as “optional extras”. It is up to the LA or governing body providing the activities to decide whether to make a charge.” The school makes a nominal charge of £1.00 per session for after school clubs paid on a termly basis.

4. Individual Instrumental Tuition

Christ Church Primary School does not provide music tuition.

5. Residential Activity

For a residential activity taking place largely during school time, or essential to the education provided at the school, no charge may be made either for the education or the costs of the travel. However the actual cost of board and lodging of a residential visit may be charged, but must be remitted in full for families in receipt of specified benefits. (see DFE Charging for School Activities January 2009). If the visit is deemed to be outside of school time, the full cost of the visit may be charged. Any remission of charges is at the discretion of the school/governors. The Head should tell all parents of the right to claim free activities if they are in receipt of these benefits.

All the relevant legislation is contained in the Education Act 1996: Section 449-462. Guidance is contained in the DFE circular 01/09: Charging for School Activities.

6. Remissions Policy

To ensure that access to activities and outcomes reflect intentions, Christ Church C.E. 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 income have in meeting the costs of educational activities for their children. Birmingham City Council defines people in receipt of Housing Benefit and their dependants as living on the margins of poverty.

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 and school funds at the end of each half term and for example, by arranging for all children on dinners to receive a packed lunch from the school when on a visit.

7. Informing Parents

Christ Church C.E. School will follow the DFE Guidelines which states that “The LA or governing body may not charge for anything unless it has drawn up a statement of General Policy on Charging ... A Policy Statement will take account of each type of activity that can be charged for, and explain when charges will be made... Parents need to know how the charges will be worked out and who might qualify for help with the costs (or even get it free). A summary of “this information” must be included in the prospectus published by the school.”

“If a charge is made for each pupil, this should not exceed the actual costs. If further funds need to be raised ... this must be by voluntary contributions or general fund raising.”

“If voluntary contributions are not sufficient an activity may be cancelled.”

8. School Meals Debts

In the case of school meals debt, governors will refer to the Schools Meals Debt Policy and look at each individual case and agree action.

9. Implementation

Planning, as a part of the process of budget building is essential to developing a charging policy at Christ Church School which recognises equality of access. We will endeavour therefore to produce a programme of activities based on a clear set of priorities identified by the school and taking into consideration the projected number of children (including known remissions), cost per head and a breakdown of transportation costs, entry fees, discounts, teacher costs etc.

Such a process however, should not inhibit flexibility and the capacity of the school to take advantage of opportunities which arise during the course of the year. These will be implemented in a way which is consistent with the school’s overall policy.

October 2004

Amended & Reviewed by Governors June 2020

To be reviewed annually