



Stroud Valley Community Primary School – Charging and Remissions Policy

The purpose of this policy is to make it clear what the school will make charge for or request a voluntary contribution towards. Any charges made by the school must meet the requirements of The Education Reform Act 1996.

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum

Voluntary Contributions

However there will be occasions during the school year when we will ask for voluntary contributions towards the cost of an activity that has additional charges to the school. We are an inclusive school and no child will be treated any differently if his/her parents decide not to contribute towards costs.

School trips, visits or visitors enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children and the school may invite parents to contribute towards the costs involved. These contributions are voluntary and not compulsory; they simply help the school pay for such activities. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions and the school cannot meet the difference in cost we may cancel a visit. All visits are subsidised in part by the school.

Costs are simply calculated by dividing all the costs by the number of children participating after taking into account the proportion that can be covered by the school. A breakdown of these costs, eg coach travel, entry fee etc is available upon request. The school will not make a profit from any activity arranged or the children.

Optional Extras

Charging can be made for 'optional extras'

These are:

- education provided outside of school hours that is not part of the National Curriculum
- board and lodgings for a pupil on a residential visit
- extended day services – breakfast and after school club.

The costs that may be included in calculating the charge may be:

- any materials or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- staff under contract to provide the optional extra.

Any charge made in respect of individual children will not exceed the cost of providing the optional activity for that child, it will not include any element of subsidy for any other children wishing to participate in the activity.

Participation in any optional extra is on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges.

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, we are able to make a charge for the board and lodging involved. Other costs, such as travel or specialist tuition, are inevitably involved in residential and the school will, as above, request voluntary contributions towards the costs of these. As with all our enrichment activities the school may have to cancel a residential if the proportion left for the school to pay is too great for our budget.

Families that are in receipt of the benefits which enable them to free school meals entitlement are also exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging.

The school is occasionally supported through bursaries from the Stroud and Rodborough Educational Charity. Please contact Debbie Smith in the school office (01453 764400) if you would like to discuss costs of residential trips further.

The school uses Parent Pay, which is an on-line payment platform, as a convenient way for parents to pay for school dinners as well as residential trips. Further details of parent pay are available from the school office.

Music tuition

If there is sufficient parental request for music tuition the school will arrange for this to happen.

There is a charge for individual or group music tuition as this is in addition to National Curriculum Music. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons to cover the costs of tuition. Parents may apply for bursaries from the County Music Service.

Swimming

The school organises swimming and indoor sports lessons for all children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We ask for a voluntary contribution for these activities which covers the cost of transport and entrance. We inform parents through a letter when these lessons are to take place.

Coach travel

Coach travel often makes up the bulk of the expense of a school trip and is included in the voluntary contribution asked for.

Remissions

Remissions may occur if the school offers provision for which there would normally be a complete charge but it is decided only to ask for a proportion of the cost from parents.

Breakfast Club and After School Provision

The school runs an extended service for parents before and after school. Breakfast club operates from 7-45am and after school care until 5-30pm. As these are optional extras a charge will be made. The costs of these clubs are available on the school website and on the booking form which can also be obtained from the school office.

Lettings

The school may make its facilities available to outside users (at the discretion of the Headteacher and Governing Body). The scale of charges will be determined annually by the Finance Committee and is available on request, please call the school office. If a user group does not have Public Liability Insurance then there will be an additional 10% of the total hire charge to cover the premium for cover under Gloucestershire County Council's Hirers' Liability Insurance.

Policy Review

Policy Title	Charging and Remissions
Date Policy Ratified by Governors	March 2024
Committee Responsible	Finance and GP
Date for next review	March 2026