

## Charging and Remissions Policy

**Approval Date:**

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated as necessary:

November 2023

The Devonshire Hill Nursery & Primary School is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils, regardless of financial circumstances, and has established the following policy and procedures to ensure that no child is discriminated against by our offering of school trips, activities and educational extras.

In addition, we are committed to adhering to legal requirements regarding charging for school activities, and meeting all statutory guidance provided by the DfE.

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## 1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy will have consideration for, and be compliant with, the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- ★ Education Act 1996
- ★ DfE (2018) 'Charging for school activities'
- ★ DfE (2020) 'Governance handbook'
- ★ The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007

## 2. Charging for education

2.1. We will not charge parents/carers for:

- ★ Admission applications.
- ★ Education provided during school hours.
- ★ Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education.
- ★ Instrumental or vocal tuition, unless provided at the request of the pupil's parents.
- ★ Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- ★ Examination re-sits, if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sits at the school.

2.2. We may charge parents/carers for the following:

- ★ Materials, books, instruments or equipment, where they desire their child to own them
- ★ Optional extras
- ★ Music and vocational tuition (in certain circumstances)
- ★ Use of community facilities

## 3. Optional extras

3.1. We may charge parents/carers for the following optional extras:

- ★ Education provided outside of school time that is not:
  - Part of the national curriculum.
  - Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
  - Religious education.
- ★ Examination entry fees where the pupil has not been prepared for the examinations at the school
- ★ Transport, other than that arranged by the Local Authority (LA) for the pupil to be provided with education
- ★ Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- ★ Extended day services offered to pupils

3.2. When calculating the cost of optional extras, the school will only take into account the following:

- ★ Materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in relation to the optional extra
- ★ The cost of buildings and accommodation



- ★ The employment of non-teaching staff
- ★ The cost of teaching staff (including teaching assistants) under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra
- ★ The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide vocal tuition or tuition in playing a musical instrument.

3.3. The school will not charge in excess of the actual cost of providing the optional extra divided by the number of participating pupils. We will not charge a subsidy for any pupils wishing to participate but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge. If a proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, we will not charge for the cost of alternative provision for those not participating.

3.4. Participation in any optional activity will be on the basis of parental/carer choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Therefore, parental/carer agreement is a pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra.

## 4. Voluntary contributions

4.1. We may, from time-to-time, ask for voluntary contributions towards the benefit of the school or school activities. If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, we will make this clear to parents at the outset. We will also make it clear that there is no obligation for parents to make a contribution, and notify parents whether assistance is available.

4.2. No child will be excluded from an activity simply because their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay. If a parent/carer is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will still be given an equal opportunity to take part in the activity. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund an activity, and the school cannot fund it via another source, the activity will be cancelled.

4.3. We will strive to ensure that parents/carers do not feel pressurised into making voluntary contributions.

## 5. Music tuition

5.1. Music tuition is the only exception to the rule that all education provided during school hours must be free. The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 allow for charges to be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size – provided that the tuition is at the request of the pupil's parents/carers.

5.2. The charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff providing the tuition.

## 6. Transport

6.1. We will not charge for:

- ★ Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the LA has a statutory obligation to provide the transport.
- ★ Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated.



- ★ Transporting pupils to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for the examination at the school.
- ★ Transport provided for an educational visit.

## 7. Residential visits

7.1. We will not charge for:

- ★ Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours.
- ★ Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- ★ Supply teachers to cover for teachers accompanying pupils on visits.

7.2. We may charge for board and lodging – but the charge will not exceed the actual cost.

7.3. Parents/carers will be exempt from board and lodging costs if they can prove that they are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits

- ★ Income Support
- ★ Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- ★ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ★ Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ★ The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- ★ Child Tax Credit, provided that they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- ★ Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

## 8. Universal Credit

*(provided that an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods by HMRC) Education partly during school hours*

- 8.1. If 50 percent or more of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours (including time spent travelling if the travel occurs during school hours), it is deemed to take place during school hours and no charge will be made.
- 8.2. If less than 50 percent of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours and we may charge for the activity; however, we will not charge if the activity is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education.
- 8.3. **Residential visits:** If the number of school sessions covered by the visit is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the number of half days (any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day) spent on the visit, we will not charge for the activity.
- 8.4. The remission of charges for board and lodging payments is the responsibility of the school. These costs will be borne by our contingency funds.



8.5. Any charges for extended day services will be optional.

## 9. Damaged or lost items

9.1. The school may charge parents/carers for the cost of replacing items broken, damaged or lost due to their child's behaviour. Parents/carers will not be taken to court for failure to pay such costs.

## 10. Remissions

10.1. We have set aside a small fund to enable families in financial difficulty to send their children on visits/activities. The funding is limited and there is no guarantee that all requests can be met. Assistance will be allocated on a needs basis, and if the full cost of the trip/activity cannot be met through assistance funding and voluntary contributions, the trip/activity will be cancelled.

10.2. Parents/carers in receipt of any of the following benefits may request assistance with the costs of activities and requests will be:

- ★ Income Support
- ★ Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- ★ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ★ Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ★ The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- ★ Child Tax Credit, provided that they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and they have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- ★ Working Tax Credit run on – paid for four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

10.3. Universal Credit (provided that an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods by HMRC)To request assistance, parents should contact the School Business Manager via the Main Office or by emailing: [admin@devonshirehill.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@devonshirehill.haringey.sch.uk)

### Breakfast Club

Charged at a per session rate . Terms and conditions stated on registration form.

### School Meals

Charged at a daily rate. Children from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to free school meals as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meal Policy. Should additional funded schemes become available these will be reflected in the policy.

### After School Clubs

Parents/carers are required to meet advertised costs. If the income for each activity does not meet the overall cost, such activities may have to be cancelled.

### Swimming Classes

Swimming Tuition for year 6 children is met from the School Budget.



### **Music Tuition**

Whole Class Instrument Tuition for Year 4 children is not charged to parents; the costs are met from the School Budget. The school's service level agreement with Haringey Music Service also includes provision for up to 12 Year 5 children to continue with their instrument. The school has the option to buy in additional tuition if demand is higher.

### **School Uniform**

The school has a school uniform policy. The policy has a best value approach that is flexible to enable all children to access a school uniform. A full list of prices are available [here](#). Uniform sold in school will be at a non-commercial rate in order to cover costs. The School offers pre-loved items in good condition for a small donation.

### **Ingredients/Materials for practical subjects in Nursery and Reception** **Lost or damaged school equipment, books, etc.** **Breakages and damages to school property** **Lettings**

Parents/carers are requested to contribute 50p per week to help provide materials for practical subjects.

Parents/carers may be requested to replace school equipment, books, electronic devices etc. which have been lost or damaged by their child.

Willful damage to school buildings or property by a pupil may be charged to parents/carers by the school.

In consultation with the Governing Body the School has a Lettings Policy which will cover the lettings and fees for use of school premises outside of school hours. Please refer to the Lettings Policy

