



# **Thistly Meadow Primary School CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY**



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## **Charging and Remissions Policy**

### **Introduction**

The Governing Body supports the ideals of free education for all, and welcome additional opportunities made available to pupils via educational visits and other activities.

The Governing Body will conform to legislation on charging for activities.

### **Aims and objectives**

The aims of this policy are to:

- Set out what the school will not charge for, what it will make a charge for or request a voluntary contribution towards, from parents/carers.
- Clarify how charges will be determined, so parents and guardians understand why requests for payment are sometimes made for some activities.

### **Voluntary contributions for school activities**

The Governing Body is allowed to ask parents for voluntary contributions towards school activities. The contributions will be kept to a minimum to cover only their child's share of the cost. No pupil will be disadvantaged or left out of an activity because parents cannot make a contribution. Any activity that cannot take place without contributions will be notified to parents at the planning stage.

Some types of activity will attract voluntary contributions. These will include, but are not limited to:

- Practical subjects e.g. craft, design and cooking where contributions would be made towards the cost of materials
- Swimming lessons
- School day or half day trips
- Visiting groups invited to the school
- On site workshops/performing arts/sports activities etc.

### **Chargeable activities**

The school may recover the full costs of the following activities, which may be provided directly or through commissioned services but charges will not exceed the actual cost.

1. Educational or other activities provided wholly or mainly outside school hours, as defined in section 107 of the Education Reform Act 1988, which covers the full cost of all aspects of the activity. These are not activities that are:

- Part of the national curriculum
  - Part of religious education
  - Part of a syllabus for prescribed public examinations
2. Breakfast and After School club
  3. Board and lodging on residential trips
  4. Provision of instrumental and vocal tuition, which takes place during the day and which has been requested by parents/carers

The school requests a voluntary contribution from parents for some school activities such as trips and on site workshops. Without these payments these activities may not be able to take place.

### **Deposits**

Non returnable deposits are required to cover initial payments and administration costs.

### **Refunds**

In the event of a child being unable to take part in a school activity for which a charge or voluntary contribution is levied, or the activity is cancelled, refunds will be made whenever possible minus unrecoverable charges incurred by the school.

Procedures for refunds for residential visits will depend upon the details of the insurance policy applying and will be notified to parents in advance of the trip.

Refunds would be at the discretion of the Business committee.

### **Financial hardship**

Any parent or carer for whom this may apply should complete an Application for Financial Assistance form (Appendix A) available from the school office. Their case will be reviewed sympathetically within the constraints of the school budget and general funds. The school may also use support from other agencies and charities in providing support to pupils.

### **Lost items**

The Governors reserve the right to charge for lost items such as reading books, reading records and other items of school property. Charges will be notified to parents in advance.

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Business Committee or where there are significant changes.

**APPENDIX A**

**THISTLY MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

At Thistly Meadow we want to ensure every child has an opportunity to participate fully in school activities and reach their potential in life. We understand that some parents may find it difficult to fund some activities either because their income has reduced due to unemployment, redundancy, separation from a partner or illness.

If you require support from the school, please complete the details below and we will look sensitively at your request. All grants are at the school's discretion and we may part fund some requests. **All applications are treated with the upmost confidence.**

**Name of parent/carer**.....

**Employed yes/no**

**Name of child\***.....

*\*if you require support for more than one child, please list below:*

**Name of child**.....

**Name of child**.....

**Support required for (please circle):**

**School Trip Uniform Music lessons Club Other**.....

**Benefits claimed (if any)** - please state, as some benefits may mean your child is eligible for free school meals (see overleaf) and the school will receive the pupil premium grant to help support your child. If you have already registered for free school meals, this may provide more support for your application.

**Reason for request**.....

**Amount required**.....

**Parent contribution**.....

**Signed**..... **Name**.....

**Parent/Carer** **Date**.....

**Signed**..... **Date**.....

**Head teacher** **Agreed Yes/No** **PM/FSM**

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

### Do I qualify to claim free school meals?

Families of children and young people in full-time education at any school maintained by Leicestershire County Council may be entitled to claim free school meals, providing they receive a qualifying benefit.

### Qualifying benefits

The current criteria for claiming free school meals are as follows:

- 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 Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're 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 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

### How do I apply?

- E-mail us on [freeschoolmeals@leics.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@leics.gov.uk)
- You can download the [Free School Meals Application Form](#)
- Apply by telephone on 0116 305 5417

Version	Date	Comment
V3	Date created: 31/3/22 Review date: 03/2025	