



REDLAND SCHOOL CHARGING AND REMISSIONS  
POLICY

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# Redland Primary School Charging and Remissions Policy

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## **Introduction**

Redland School wishes to provide all pupils with the best possible educational opportunities within the limits of available funding. The Education Act 1996 sets out the law on charging for school activities and states that education during normal school hours (and out of school hours where related to preparation for prescribed examinations) is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents. The Governors endorse this principal.

It is recognised, however, that many educationally valuable activities are dependent on financial payments from parents. Without this support the school would not be able to maintain the quality and breadth of the educational programme it currently provides to pupils. The school's objective is to keep financial payments to a minimum and to ensure, as far as possible that all children are able to participate irrespective of their circumstances.

The law recognises and accepts that charges may be made to parents in certain defined circumstances – provided a) that the activities for which charges will be made have been identified by the school and b) that the basis on which charges will be reduced or waived (remissions) has been explained to parents.

If the activity or visit cannot be funded without the support of parental contributions or charges, it will be made clear to the parents at the outset. In the event of insufficient support, the activity will be cancelled.

## **Admissions**

No charges will be made for admission.

## **School Meals**

No charge will be made for pupils entitled to free school meals. Charges will be made to all pupils not entitled to free school meals at an amount determined by the local authority, contractor or governing body of the school as appropriate.

## **Public Examinations**

No charges will be made for entering pupils for public examinations that are set out in regulations.

## **Day Visits**

ie topic specific day trips.

Included under this heading will be such activities as visits to museums, farms, theatres, leisure centres and other such venues as the teaching staff considers appropriate.

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For visits occurring in school time the school will invite a payment contribution from parents to meet costs. If the extent of available funds (including the contributions) do not cover the cost of the trip then unfortunately trips may be cancelled.

## **Swimming Lessons**

Swimming lessons form part of the national curriculum and, when available, they will be funded by the school.

So as to avoid the lessons taking too much time out of the school day the school will arrange transport to and from swimming lessons.

The school will invite voluntary contributions to assist in covering the cost of the transport related to swimming lessons. In the event that transportation costs are not met by the extent of the donations a decision may need to be taken to cancel that transport.

## **Residential Visits**

EG: Braeside, Wick Court and Lee Abbey

Whilst the school are not obliged to provide residential trips they are considered to be a marvellous tool for enhancing the children's learning and life skills. The school therefore take pride in the amount that they are able to offer and the age range catered for across the school. No residential trip is obligatory and is therefore a parental choice.

Some of the residential trips the school offers are partly during school time and others mostly out of school time.

Where school time is taken up on the trip the education provided will be funded by the school. Parents will be charged for the full cost of children's board and lodgings unless statutory exceptions apply (see remissions below). Voluntary contributions may be sought on occasion.

## **Music Lessons**

Although the law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, music lessons are an exception to this rule. Charges may be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, for either an individual pupil or groups of any appropriate size to play a musical instrument or to sing. Charges may only be made if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.

The charging for instrumental music tuition provided by external teachers, on school premises, is a matter for agreement between the parents and the music teacher.

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## **Classroom Materials**

No charge will be made for classroom materials or equipment. However, for certain activities (technology, cookery) parents may be invited to provide materials, ingredients or monetary amounts. Where parents would like to possess the finished product the school will charge the cost or require the supply of the necessary materials.

## **School Clubs**

Where a post school club is run by external commercial organisations, charging arrangements for these clubs are a matter for agreement between the parents and the external organisation. (eg. FizzPop Science)

## **Damage to Property and Breakages**

The governors may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to items being lost, broken or damaged, particularly if such damage is considered to have been intentional.

## **Dishonoured Cheques / Payments**

We will make a charge for dishonoured and returned cheques.

## **Remissions**

Charges may be waived or reduced for children whose parents make an application to the Head and where School Funds may be made available.

## **General**

In accordance with Section 460 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended), nothing in:

- a) the Education Act 1996 (as amended) or
- b) this Policy Document

shall prevent the school from inviting parents to make voluntary contributions towards the costs of providing activities both within and outside of school hours, provided that such contributions are genuinely voluntary. In such cases, i) there is no obligation to contribute; and ii) in no circumstances will students be treated differently according to whether or not their parents make such contributions.