



Woodchester Endowed Church of England (Aided) Primary School

'Love, Learn and Flourish Together'

Our church school community seeks to inspire children and adults to love, learn and flourish together so we may become everything God has created us to be.

Charging and Remittance Policy

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Date	Version	Reason for change
Sept 24	2.0	Updated to reflect change in staff; redid numbering; updated table of contents.
Sept 25	3.0	Updated to reflect change in staff, formatting etc.

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1. Our Vision and Rationale

Woodchester Endowed Church of England Primary School community seeks to inspire children and adults to **'Love, Learn and Flourish Together'** so that we may become everything God has created us to be.

'Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many' (1 Corinthians 12; 14-16)

As a Church of England school, our Christian vision is central to all we do. Our school community seeks to inspire children and adults to love, learn and flourish together so we may become everything God has created us to be. Our Christian vision is rooted in Paul's letter to the people of Corinth and in our desire to nurture the whole community, flourishing both now and in the future.

Paul reminds them that they should live good lives and that their community will be stronger and make a bigger difference if everyone works together to make the most of their individual talents and skills. Our school vision recognises that we are unique individuals, loved by God, and we aim to develop all children and adults to their full potential through a wide variety of opportunities and experiences.

As an inclusive school where we wish for everyone to flourish, we want all pupils to have access to all areas of the life of the school, regardless of parents' ability to pay. Some activities organised by the school during school hours may require parental contributions in order for them to go ahead. Parents are asked to make voluntary contributions to cover the cost of these activities but no child is excluded from taking part because of non-payment of the contribution.

However, it is often necessary for a substantial number of parents to contribute before the activity can go ahead and if insufficient contributions are received, an activity may need to be cancelled. The Headteacher and Governors will consider sympathetically cases of genuine financial need and remit charges, where appropriate.

2. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will and will not be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

3. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449 to 462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England.

4. Definitions

- **Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- **Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

5. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

The governing board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

Responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy has been delegated to the headteacher.

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Monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the Finance Committee.

Headteachers

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances that they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

6. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what we **cannot** charge for:

Education

- Admission applications
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The National Curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority (LA) has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

Residential visits

- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school

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- Religious education
- Supply teachers, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupils on a residential visit

7. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carer wishes the child to own them
- Optional extras (see section below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section below)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school **and** the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus

Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The National Curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the LA or governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra that is to be charged for.



Music tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

8. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in the section entitled **where charges cannot be made**, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities that would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include:

- Sports clubs
- School trips

The charge will include transport for trips, cost of entry and associated cost of any activity.

There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.

Once a voluntary contribution has been made towards an activity, it is not normally possible to return that contribution once it has been received. Examples include, but are not limited to: if a pupil is ill on the day of a trip; or a non-returnable deposit has already been paid over to a provider and the pupil no longer wishes to go on the trip.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances, the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 7 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing body and will depend on the activity in question.

Remissions for residential visits

Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- 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)

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Seys, Bridges and St Loe's Trust

This is a local trust fund (recently amalgamated) set up to support the education of children and young people (up to the age of 25) whose parent(s) are resident in the civil parish of Woodchester and Amberley, OR who are attending school in Woodchester.

The Trust provides a number of financial grants each year. This might support the purchase of: outfits, clothing, tools, instruments, music lessons or books; or to fund travel for educational purpose; or to meet costs of preparation for entering a profession or trade. The Trustees meet to approve grants twice a year, in May and November, but can consider applications received at other times, in cases of urgency. Typically, the individual grants made are in the region of £100-£250, but on occasion larger grants have been made.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Headteacher monitors charges and remissions; and ensures these comply with this policy. This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher at least annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body.

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