

ASHCROFT INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Providing the best start in life for all children



Charging and Remissions Policy

Headteacher: _____

Chair of Governors: _____

Person Responsible for Policy and Review: Headteacher

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Ashcroft Infant and Nursery School

Charging and Remissions

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1.Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for school activities, external lettings and extended school provision, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents. Guidance is based on the Education Act 1996: Sections 449-462.

2.Responsibilities

The Local Governing Body at Ashcroft Infant and Nursery are responsible for determining the content of the policy and the Head teacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the head teacher and the LGB.

3.Definitions

Community Facilities – activities which the board do not feel is of direct educational benefit to children at the school

Extended school provision – provision of childcare outside the standard school day where it is optional as to whether the child attends

External Lettings – letting to an organisation other than the school

Remission – where a charge is not payable, either in full or in part

Sinking Fund – a reserve put aside over a number of years to pay for major maintenance or renewal costs

4.Prohibition of Charges

The LGB recognise that the legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- 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, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as an essential part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil, or the first access to the Key Stage 1 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (Wider Opportunities);
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school;
- education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;
- education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the

pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of the schools basic curriculum for religious education;

- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school;
- transport provided in connection with an educational trips.

5.Charges

The Governing Body will determine, where applicable, for each of the following whether they intend to make a charge and how much the charge should be.

- (a) board and lodging on residential visits (not to exceed the costs)
- (b) the proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside school hours ('optional extras') to meet the costs for:
 - (i) travel
 - (ii) materials and equipment
 - (iii) non-teaching staff costs
 - (iv) entrance fees
 - (v) insurance costs
- (c) individual or group tuition in the playing of a musical instrument
- (d) re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
- (e) costs of non-prescribed examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
- (f) any other education, transport or examination fee unless charges are specifically prohibited
- (g) breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils
- (h) extra-curricular activities and school clubs
- (i) Letting of the school premises or grounds

- (j) Extended school care activities such as breakfast club, after school club, holiday clubs and “wrap around” nursery provision
- (k) Charges for materials or ingredients where the pupils wish to have the finished product
- (l) Cost of transport to take part in work experience

Consideration is also given to:

- the proportion of the costs recovered where a charge is to be made;
- whether any remission is to extend beyond the statutory minimum;
- whether or not special consideration is to be given to hardship cases not contained within the exemptions and how this is to be determined;
- arrangements for education where the parents fail to pay the charge being levied by the school;
- the level of support from the school budget where the level of voluntary contributions is insufficient to fund the visit or journey;
- the maximum amount that can be used from the school’s budget to support community facilities is the amount of the school standards grant allocation;
- Any charge for a pupil activity should not exceed the actual cost. If further funds need to be raised to help in hardship cases, this must be voluntary
- for lettings, the charge should at least cover the cost, including:
 - Services (heat & light)
 - Staffing (security, caretaking & cleaning)
 - Administration
 - Wear & tear (sinking fund)

6. Remissions

Children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, will also be entitled to the remission of charges for board and lodging costs during residential school trips. The relevant support payments are:

- a) Income Support;
- b) Income Based Jobseeker’s Allowance;
- c) Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- d) Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income does not exceed the prevailing rate set by HM Government)

(For any other charges which are to be made the policy must set out below the remissions which will apply to each charge. If charges are not to be made the corresponding remission does not exist).

7. Voluntary Contributions

Parents will be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following:

- a) Contribution towards some school trips
- b) Discotheques
- c) Breakfast Club
- d) Materials for after school clubs
- e) Coaches for school trips

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request for a voluntary contribution in no way represents a charge. In addition, the following will be made clear to parents:

- a) That the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay; and
- b) That registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.
- c) That without voluntary contributions it may be that the trip cannot go ahead.

The costs of any optional extra undertaken by any pupil whose parents/guardians are unable to pay may not be included in the charge to other pupils but must be funded through the delegated budget, school fund or other fundraising.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the head teacher.

8. Charges for 2023/ 2024

Charges are as follows for Ashcroft Infant and Nursery:

- a. Parents will be asked to replace a book, for example, or cover the cost or replacement. In circumstances where the damage / breakage is significant then the Headteacher will agree an amount with the parent/ guardian as per responsibility
- b. School lettings (external) £20.00 per hour per room.
- c. School trips will be based around the cost of the trip and be a voluntary contribution.