

Nether Stowey CE Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy




A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Clark', is positioned above the signature line for the Chair of Governors.

Approved on behalf of Governing Body:

.....
(Chair of Governors)

Approved on behalf of School:

..... 

(Head teacher)

Date: April 2024

Review: April 2025

Our vision



**Nether Stowey Church of England Primary School
inspires a love of learning in all of us with
Christian values at our heart.**

**Our school community is a safe, caring friendly place where
everyone is welcome.**

**We give all children and staff the opportunity and encouragement
to aim high and develop their strengths and interests.**

**We strive to understand, respect and value each other, our school,
our community and the world we live in.**

Nether Stowey Church of England Primary School values are:

Thankfulness, Fellowship, Endurance, Peace, Trust & Charity

1. 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

2. Legislation and guidance

Maintained schools insert:

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.

It's also based on guidance from the DfE on statutory policies for schools and academy trusts.

3. Definitions

Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities

Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities of headteacher, other staff and governors

4.1 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 business committee .

Monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the business committee

4.2 Headteachers

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

4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently

Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which 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.

4.4 Parents

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

The headteacher, staff and governors will ensure that the following applies:

5. *No charges will be made for*

- 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, or part of the school
- Religious education.
- Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments (or singing) if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum.
- 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
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours. However, Governors have agreed that Voluntary Contributions may be requested.
- Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum or part of the school's basic curriculum for Religious Education.
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip.

- Transport provided in connection with an educational trip. However, Governors have agreed that Voluntary Contributions may be requested.

6. Activities for which charges may be made

- Activities outside school hours – Non-residential activities (school clubs) (other than those listed in 1 above), which take place outside school hours, but only if the majority of the time spent on that activity takes place outside school hours (time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours).
- Residential activities – Board and lodging costs (but only those costs) of residential trips deemed to take place during school time. However, pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see point 9 below) may not be charged for board and lodging costs. Residential trips deemed to take place outside school time (other than for those activities listed in 1 above). When any trip is arranged parents will be notified of the policy for allocating places.
- Music tuition – for individuals or groups of any appropriate size.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities which would not otherwise be possible. Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include : school trips, sport activities, theatre visits, workshops:

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

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

8. Additional considerations

The governing body recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end we will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Where possible we shall publish a list of visits (and their approximate cost) at the beginning of the school year so that parents can plan ahead
- We have established a system for parents to pay in instalments
- When an opportunity for a trip arises at short notice it will be possible to arrange to pay by instalments beyond the date of the trip
- We acknowledge that offering opportunities on a “first pay, first served” basis discriminates against pupils from families on lower incomes and we will avoid that method of selection.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances, the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents 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)

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Finance officer Heather Hillman monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher every year.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board business committee.