



# Charging and Remissions Policy

## **Our Vision**

We want Virginia Primary School to be a community of happy, confident, motivated lifelong learners. We want our children to be successful citizens who value themselves and each other. Therefore, we are continually striving to ensure that we nurture, challenge and enable each and every one to be the very best they can be in all areas of school life.

## **Rights Respecting School**

We are a Right Respecting School and this policy supports the following articles from the United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of a Child:

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**Policy Updated: Autumn 2018**

**Policy Renewal frequency: 3 years**

**Policy Renewal Date: Autumn 2021**

## **Charging Policy**

### **Rationale**

We believe that all our pupils should have equal opportunity to benefit from all school activities regardless of their parents' financial means.

Our charging and remissions policy sets out how we will do our best to ensure this.

This policy is in accordance with section 457 of the Education Act, 1996. Those activities for which a charge may be made are governed by the Education Reform Act 1988 and laid down in the DFE Circular 2/89.

Education provided wholly or mainly during school hours will be provided free of charge. We may ask for voluntary contributions, in order for particular enrichment activities to take place. We aim to be strategic in our planning for the cost of enrichment activities

Pupils of families who cannot make a contribution will not be discriminated against. No pupil will be left out of an activity because his/her parents/carer cannot, or will not, make a contribution of any kind.

Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible and there is no way to make up the shortfall, the activity will be cancelled.

### **School trips**

The majority of the cost of school trips during school hours will be met by the school. We will not ask for money for trips that have been specially planned to support the curriculum. We may on occasions ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions towards any school trip that incurs a cost. We will ensure that costs are kept to a minimum without impeding health and safety.

### **School journey**

A proportion of the cost of the annual school journey for pupils is met by the school. However, parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of board and lodging during the time away. Pupils, whose parents are in receipt of Income Support, Income based Jobseekers' Allowance, support under part VI of the Immigration Act 1999 or Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also being received, will be asked to pay 50% of the cost. Families that are finding payment difficult may seek remission from the head teacher.

### **Damage/loss to property**

Charges will be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of school property (including premises, equipment, books or materials) belonging to the school or third

party, where the cost has been recharged to the school. The charge will be the cost of the replacement or repair or a lower cost subject to the head teacher's discretion.

### **Optional Extras**

Parents or carers may be invited to provide or buy particular items on a voluntary basis needed to partake in activities i.e. swimming caps, gum shields. The goods will be subsidised by the school.

### **School Meals**

School Meals will be charged at the rate set by the local authority for pupils. Adults will be charged at the rate set by the local authority plus VAT.

### **Breakfast Club**

At present the cost of the breakfast club is met from government funding, school contribution and parental charges. The costs will be reviewed each academic year and altered to reflect funding arrangements.

### **Lettings**

The school building is managed by the schools grouped PFI scheme. Lettings will be made subject to the contract and managed by TH Schools Ltd.

### **Remissions**

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged pupils the school has agreed to offer reduced rates to parents in particular circumstances, this will be at the discretion of the head teacher.