

Fairisle Junior School

Charging and Remissions Policy and Guidelines

Fairisle Junior School endorses the principles of the 1988 Education Act in maintaining the right to free education for all children. The act allows us to request voluntary contributions to broaden children's educational experience.

Trips, Visits and Activities

The school reserves the right to ask parents for voluntary contributions for any activity organised by the school which takes place wholly or mainly (50% or more) during normal teaching time.

Non-contribution would not prejudice a pupil's place, however, unless most parents were prepared to make a contribution, the school may have to cancel the activity. Such enriching activities are an important aspect in supporting the curriculum.

Where an activity is residential, the consequent cost of residency will be charged to the parents or legal guardian. Any parents or legal guardians who are experiencing financial difficulty will be encouraged to approach the school where we will seek to find assistance with the charges. We are often able to do this via local trust funds and bursaries. The Governing Body will determine the special circumstances as appropriate, however, in all cases parents will be expected to make a nominal contribution.

Voluntary contributions will, in all circumstances, be invited through individual letters to parents.

Any school organised activity which takes place mainly (more than 50%) outside of school time will be charged for in such a way as to meet the entire costs of the activity.

Damage to School Property

The school will cover accidental breakages of school property. Deliberate or wilful acts which result in breakage or damage to school property will be charged for at a rate appropriate to replacement costs.

Music

Where children receive tuition from peripatetic staff, either individually or in a group activity, the school enters into a contract with the parent. The school then enters into a contract with Showcase Performance Ltd, our music provider. The school administers the sending of invoices and the collection of payments for such tuition to and from parents.

The charges for tuition are set by the governors following recommendations from Music Services and are increased by inflation annually. The money collected for tuition is less than the budget the school allocates to pay Showcase Performance Ltd, which effectively means the school has provided an equal subsidy to all children.

The school's contract with the music provider covers an academic year and so parents commit to a year's tuition and associated payment. Charges for instrumental tuition are paid directly by the parent to the provider and we play no part in this. Instrumental lessons for Year 4 are currently government funded, but parents are expected to pay instrument insurance direct to the school. This is currently £10 for the year and this covers servicing instruments (provision of strings, reeds etc.)

Twins/Siblings in the same Year Group

The governing body makes special arrangements for twins and siblings in the same year group. Where there are charges invited from or charged directly to parents, only one charge will be invited or made.

Charges for Debit/Credit Card Payments

Southampton City Council does not currently pass processing charges for card payments onto schools. If this policy were to change, the governors have agreed that the full transaction charge will be passed on to parents. The Internet Payments system allows for this to be calculated and charged automatically.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for Year 5 are currently partially grant funded by government. The school pays for the additional costs not covered by the grant. This means the school subsidises the cost of swimming equally for all pupils, such that no charge is passed on to parents.

Dinner Money

Dinners are charged for at the rate set by City Catering Southampton and the full cost passed on to parents. For children eligible for Free School Meals, no charge is made.

Uniform

The school receives a small grant each year to subsidise the cost of uniform. The governors have agreed that this grant should provide school clothing annually to each child who is eligible for Free School Meals. This costs more than the government grant, meaning that each eligible child is equally subsidised.

Other Charges to Parents

The Headteacher, Resources Committee or Governing Body may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services, e.g. for providing a copy of an OfSTED report.

The school charging policy will be subject to change if there are new Local Authority or Department for Education policy changes, or changes in the law.

This policy was reviewed and ratified by the Governing Body in the Autumn term 2024.

The next review will be Autumn 2026.