

Nightingale Infant and Nursery School



School Charging and Refund Policy

Charges for School Activities

Legislation allows schools to charge for certain activities, which take place both inside and outside school hours. These are the activities and materials for which you will be charged:

- ◆ **Music tuition:** individual tuition in playing a musical instrument, which is neither part of the syllabus for an approved public examination, nor part of the National Curriculum. Schools may charge for instrumental tuition given to groups of no more than four pupils.
- ◆ **Ingredients and materials:** ingredients and materials for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance that they wish to receive the finished articles.
- ◆ **Travel:** the cost of travel when a pupil makes use of transport not provided by the authority or school, to travel direct from home to an activity approved of, but not provided by, the authority or school.
- ◆ **Board and lodging:** board and lodging will be charged in all cases where a school activity involves pupils in nights away from home.
- ◆ **Activities outside school hours:** a charge will be made for all non-residential activities which take place wholly or more than 50% outside school hours, where the child's participation has been agreed in advance by the parents. The charge will include the cost of travel, entrance fees, insurance, books, equipment and any staff (teaching or non-teaching) engaged specifically for the activity.
- ◆ **Residential trips outside school hours:** a residential trip is deemed to take place outside school hours if the number of "missed" school sessions is less than half of the number of half days taken up by the trip. Charges will be made as described above.
- ◆ **Public Examinations:** charges are made for the entry of a pupil for a prescribed examination for which he/she has not been prepared by the school, or where the pupil entered for examinations in the same subject with two examination boards.

Remission of charges

Only parents who are in receipt of Income Support, Working Families' Credit, Disabled Person's Tax Credit or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance are eligible for remission of charges. Remission of charges only applies to board and lodgings charges, which are levied directly by the LA or the school and where they relate to activities, deemed to take place wholly or partly in school hours.

Remission will not apply to such charges when they relate to activities wholly outside school hours, except if the activity is prescribed in a syllabus for a public examination, if it is prescribed by the National Curriculum or fulfils duties relating to Religious Education.

Parents who have difficulty meeting any charges should discuss the matter in confidence with the headteacher.

Refunds

Refunds will only be offered in exceptional circumstances, e.g. if a school visit is cancelled, or if the surplus collected for an activity exceeds the cost of that activity by an amount pre-determined by the governing board e.g. £5 per pupil.

Should the amount collected per pupil exceed the governors stated amount, parents/guardians should be offered the refund in writing, with a reply slip attached to the letter stating whether they wish to take up the offer, or decline it, along with a deadline by which a response is required. It should be clearly stated where the surplus will be placed e.g. to offset a future visit etc, and that if no reply is received by the deadline, the school will assume that the parent/guardian intends for the school to retain the funds.

All refunds should be made via cheque payment to the parent/guardian concerned.

Any excess income less than £5 per pupil will be paid into the school fund account. Any excess expenditure will be funded by the school fund.

Voluntary Contribution

The school may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

- ◆ Any activity that takes place during school hours.
- ◆ School equipment.
- ◆ General school funds.

Children of parents who are unable, or unwilling, to contribute may not be discriminated against. However, if there are insufficient voluntary contributions made to cover the cost of the trip, or activity, and there is no alternative method to make up the shortfall, then the school will cancel the activity.

This policy was created and ratified by the Governing Board in:	May 2018
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