



CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

1. Introduction

1.1 We do not charge for activities within the school day that are part of the National Curriculum.

1.2 However there are a small number of activities which enrich the school's curriculum. We find it necessary to seek voluntary contributions towards these activities.

2. Voluntary Contributions

2.1 The school invites parents to give voluntary contributions to cover the cost of certain valuable educational activities. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions to fund these activities, it may be necessary to withdraw or cancel the activity.

2.2 Where a parent is unable or unwilling to make a voluntary contribution a fully inclusive approach will be taken. Either, all children will take part, or the trip or activity will be cancelled. Alternative funding for those children whose parents cannot or choose not to pay will be sought.

2.3 The following is a list of additional activities organized by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- musical events;
- partnership events;

3. Residential visits

3.1 The school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum. We ask for voluntary contributions to cover the cost of the visit. As these residential visits are often expensive, a phased payment schedule will be offered to all parents. Where parents foresee a difficulty in paying for this trip, they are asked to contact the Headteacher as soon as possible and in confidence. School will strive to find funding to cover the costs of such a trip from another source. In the event that no such funding can be found, it will be necessary to cancel the trip for all children.

4. Music tuition

4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

4.2 There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teacher teaches individual or small group lessons outside of normal curriculum time. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5. Swimming

5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for all children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We do ask for voluntary contributions for this activity to cover the cost of swimming lessons and transport costs to and from the pool. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place and the total cost of lessons. A phased payment schedule is offered to collect the voluntary contributions for swimming.

6. Fruit

6.1 Children in our Reception and Class 1 receive free fruit daily as part of the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. The school organises the delivery of additional fruit for those children in Class 2 who are not entitled to free fruit as part of this scheme.

Free Nursery Entitlement - 3 year olds

All 3 and 4 year olds in England are entitled to 570 hours of free early education or childcare a year. This is usually taken as 15 hours each week for 38 weeks of the year. It is available from the term after your child's 3rd birthday. It stops when your child starts in reception class (or reaches compulsory school age, if later).

30 hours free childcare

You are usually eligible for 30 hours free childcare if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work - or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave
- each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week - this is £120 if you are over 25.

This earnings limit does not apply if you are self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago.

You are not eligible if:

- your child does not usually live with you
- the child is your foster child
- either you or your partner has a taxable income of over £100,000.

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits or childcare vouchers.

Voluntary Contributions

Throughout the year we offer a wide range of experiences for children in our Nursery, including cooking, exploring, materials and creative resources. We would welcome any contributions towards the cost of this. This payment is voluntary and no child will be excluded or treated differently where a contribution is not received.

Community Powers

Hexham first School have community powers to deliver paid out of hours provision onsite – Hexham First School Out of Hours Club. Hours / session charges are based on costs to run the provision and are reviewed annually. This is a not for profit group and all monies paid as income for childcare are recorded and reimbursed to continue to provide the service and costs it entails. Parents can pay by cash, bacs or childcare vouchers through their employer. Parents and carers are invoiced monthly and are required to give one months' notice to cancel their place.

Milk

Milk is provided through an external supplier and is free of charge for under 5's and Free School Meal children. Children over 5 and not in receipt of free school meals order and pay directly to Milk for Life on a half termly or termly basis