

# Thurlbear CE VA School Charging and Remissions Policy

**Approved by the Governing Body of Thurlbear CE VA School**

**Chair of Governors .....**

**Date Agreed: 04/07/2020**

**Date of Future Review: September 2022**

The 1996 Education Act requires all schools to have a policy on charging and remissions for school activities.

We believe that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits independent of their parent's financial means. The aim of this policy is to set out what charges may be made for activities, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents.

## **Guidance on Charging**

In general, all education provided during school hours is free, though music tuition can be an exception to this (see below).

### **(i) Residential School Visits**

We may make a charge for the cost of board and lodgings during overnight school trips and for activities that are not part of the National Curriculum. The cost must not exceed the actual cost and the school must not make a profit.

Parents who are in receipt of certain benefits are not required to pay (*See Remission of Charges below.*)

### **(ii) Music Tuition**

Charges can be made when the tuition is not an essential part of:

- the National Curriculum
- a public examination syllabus
- first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition, Wider Opportunities programme

### **(iii) Examinations**

No charge can be made for entering pupils for public examinations that are on the National Curriculum.

However, an examination entry fee may be charged to parents if:

- the pupil wasn't prepared for the examination at the school
- the examination isn't on the National Curriculum, but the school arranges for the pupil to take it
- a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing body or local authority (LA) originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee

Schools can also charge for:

- re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
- costs of non-prescribed examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school

#### **(iv) Breakages And Replacements**

Schools can charge for breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils.

#### **(v) Extra-Curricular Activities And School Clubs**

School can charge for extra-curricular activities and school clubs. The charge cannot exceed the actual cost of the provision.

#### **(vi) Breakfast and After School Club provision (The Den)**

The school will charge for The Den, its Breakfast and After School Club provision. Charges will be as per its Booking Terms and Conditions. In the event of non-payment the Governing Body reserve the right to refuse further bookings and may recover the outstanding fees.

In certain circumstances parents who are in receipt of certain benefits may not be required to pay. Parents should contact the school if they are experiencing financial difficulty but need provision.

### **Voluntary Contributions**

Schools can ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

- any activity which takes place during school hours
- school equipment and
- school funds generally

If the above cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, we will make this clear to the parents at the outset. Contributions are voluntary and pupils of parents who can't, or don't want to, contribute will not be excluded from the activity. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised then the activity may be cancelled.

### **Remission of Charges**

When a school informs parents about a school visit, they should make it clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of one of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances - 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)
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided they do not also receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, assessed by the Inland Revenue, that does not exceed £16,190.)
- Guaranteed State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

