

CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This Policy sets out arrangements for the charging and remission of those charges for school activities within Discovery Schools Academies Trust (DSAT). This policy applies to Redlands Community Primary School.

DSAT reserves the right to review, revise, amend, withdraw or replace the contents of this policy on providing reasonable notice of any such changes.

The charging and remissions policies is consulted with by each local Advisory Board of Discovery Schools Academies Trust ensures that statutory requirements are met and is intended to reflect the general principles of the Education Act which identifies activities for which:

- 1) Charges will not be made
- 2) Charges will be made
- 3) Charges may be waived

Voluntary contributions

The school recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of activities, including educational visits and residential experiences, can make towards the pupils' personal and social education and therefore encourages such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Educational and residential trips need to be funded by voluntary contributions from parents, which will include both the teacher/helper costs and a contingency fund, which if unused, will be returned to parents after the visit. The school is always happy to discuss payment arrangements especially for those parents/carers who are in receipt of benefits. ***However, parents should be aware that some activities may not go ahead if costs cannot be met by voluntary contributions.***

There will be a different charging procedure regarding activities which are deemed outside school hours and this will be made clear at the time, if and when these activities are planned.

The school will always seek to achieve "best value principles" for the all the activities in school such as seeking three quotes before deciding on which transport company is to be used. All staff are conscious of rising costs of education and family budgets and will always try to attempt to keep costs to a minimum.

The school also reserves the right to charge for:

- Damage to fixtures and fittings and loss or damage to equipment, including books.
- The cost of materials or ingredients for Art, Design and Technology and cookery when the products are taken home.

There is no limit to the level of voluntary contributions which parents or others can make to academy activities, nor is there any restriction placed on the use which can be made of such contributions, provided they are used for the purpose specified in the request for them. They could, for example, be used to subsidise pupils from low-income families, or the cost of travel for accompanying teachers.

The Law says that:

- If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions the parents will be notified of this from the outset.
- No child will be excluded from an activity because the parents are unable to pay.
- If insufficient contributions are raised the trip or activity may have to be cancelled.
- If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay their child will be given an equal chance to go on the visit.

Swimming

The school currently organises swimming lessons for all children in year 4 and 5. The school covers the cost of the swimming lessons and instructors. Due to the distance to the local swimming pool, the school will ask for a contribution towards the cost of transport.

Reduced contributions will be sought from parents whose children are eligible for pupil premium funding. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place and we ask parents for their permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons and for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the transport.

Educational Day Visits

In order to support the school curriculum and give children opportunities to explore learning through practical means each year group will organise Educational Day visits. In order to achieve this, the school will ask parents for a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of the trip for their child. Reduced contributions will be sought from parents whose children are eligible for pupil premium funding. Trips will be organised where similar or same activities cannot be achieved in school.

Residential visits

Where the school organises residential visits in school time to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we ask parents to make a voluntary contribution for the educational activities. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board, lodging and travel expenses. Reduced contributions will be sought from parents whose children are eligible for pupil premium funding. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to write in confidence to the Headteacher. There are a range of payment plans that the school can organise.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. Parents are given information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year. There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. Music tuition is arranged directly by the parent with via Soar Valley Music Centre. Payments are made direct to Soar Valley Music.

Uniform

As a school we ask children to wear an agreed list of school uniform. A cardigan or jumper with the school logo should be worn and can be purchased from Example School Uniforms in Barrow upon Soar or Myclothing.com online. Parents whose children are eligible for Pupil Premium funding currently receive a voucher entitling them to two jumpers or two cardigans from Example School Uniforms.

Fundraising Events/Non school uniform days

When the school holds a fundraising event for charity or other agreed aim the beneficiary will be agreed in advance and reviewed with the Headteacher. Non-school uniform day and other dressing up activities to raise money are all voluntary. All donations are voluntary and children will not be prevented from joining in even they haven't made a donation.

Enrichment Activities

In order to enrich the children's experiences, various visits or activity days are organised related to specific topics. The costs of such events will be funded through a voluntary contribution from parents.

After School Activities

Charges will be levied for additional activities provided outside school hours and activities that are organised by outside agencies. The school will only support these activities where it feels it will enhance a child's education and provide a fair value for money. The charging for these optional activities will be dependent upon the costs incurred and will be at the discretion of the School. Children who are eligible for pupil premium funding are offered one free after school activity each term. The School reserves the right to subsidise specific activities that they feel will support school initiatives.

Wraparound Care

Charges will be made for any childcare services offered to pupils before school and after school with the level of fees to be set and reviewed regularly by the School e.g. Breakfast Club, After Care Club and Extended Care Club. For information about current wraparound care charges contact the school office.

Pre-School

Redlands Robins Pre-School supports 15 hours and 30 hours (where eligible) FEEE funding for 3 and 4 year olds. Parents can purchase additional childcare where available. Additional Pre-School sessions and lunchtime sessions are charged. For information about current Pre-School charges contact the school office.

Education Provided Within Academy Hours

Education provided by any Academy for its registered pupils should be free of charge if it takes place wholly or mainly during academy hours, academy hours being those hours when an academy is actually in session and not including the break in the middle of the day. This means that neither the pupil nor his or her parents or guardian may be required to pay for, or to supply, any materials, books, instruments or other equipment for use in connection with education provided during academy hours.

Education Provided Out of Academy Hours

Where education is provided out of academy hours, charging is permitted, except where the education is provided:

- a) to fulfil any requirements specified in the topic of study, or
- b) specifically, to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum:
- c) to fulfil duties relating to Religious Education.

School Meals

Parents will be charged for school meals at the current rate charged by School Food Support with the exception of those children receiving Free School Meals.

A separate policy for the management of Dinner Money Debt has been produced – see Dinner Money Debt Management Policy.

Any change in policy requires the approval of the Discovery Board of Trustees.