

PUCKLECHURCH CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

Sections 106-111 and 117-118 of the Education Reform Act 1988 set out the law on charging in all LEA Maintained and Grant Maintained schools. These provisions replace the provisions of the Education Act 1944.

General Principles

There will be no charge for admission to the school.

Education provided for registered pupils at school shall be free of charge if it takes place wholly or mainly during school hours except that a charge may be made in respect of individual or small group (not exceeding four) tuition in playing any musical instrument, even if such tuition takes place during school hours, except where it is provided to fulfill the requirements for a syllabus for a prescribed public examination or the requirement of the National Curriculum, when it must be provided free.

Neither pupil or parent or guardian may be required to pay for, or to supply any materials, books, instruments or any other equipment for use in connection with education provided during school hours.

Parents or guardians may be invited to provide their children with particular items, in order to release resources from the school budget for other purposes, but no child shall be at a disadvantage because of a parent's or guardian's unwillingness or inability to contribute in this way.

Parents are expected to pay for the cost of ingredients in home economics lessons or clay or other materials in practical lessons if they have indicated in advance that they wish to own the finished product. In the case of a parent being unwilling or unable to pay, the child will have the experience of participating in the practical lesson but will not own the finished product.

Parents or guardians may be asked to pay for the cost of damaged, defaced or lost items where this is a result of a pupil's behaviour.

Visits during school hours

If the number of places for a particular activity is limited, the head teacher will decide which pupils will be given the opportunity to participate, without reference to parent's or guardian's willingness or ability to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost.

Parents or guardians may be asked to make a voluntary contribution provided that:-

- a) such contributions are genuinely voluntary
- b) pupils will not be treated differently according to whether parents or guardians have made a contribution
- c) parents are informed of the level of contribution and whether the activity could take place unless there was a high level of support

Visits outside school hours

No charge will be made for education, or associated incidentals, provided wholly or mainly outside school hours for pupils registered at school where education is provided:-

- a) specifically to fulfill statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum, imposed by the Education Act 1988
- b) specifically to fulfill statutory duties relating to religious education imposed by the Education Act 1988

In these circumstances the only charges which may be made relate to the cost of board and lodging on residential visits.

Residential Visits

A residential visit is one which is arranged for pupils registered at school by, or on behalf of, the LEA or the governing body and requiring pupils to spend one or more nights away from their usual overnight accommodation.

The school may make a charge for board and lodging which must not exceed the actual cost of providing board and lodging for that pupil.

Charging and Remissions

Charges will be made by the school for those activities or circumstances where the school is entitled to under the current legislation.

12th September 1997; Renewed 17th June 2002

Approved by the Governors on 13 June 2002