

John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School

Charging & Remissions Policy



Nottinghamshire County Council expects schools to operate within the law and not charge for those activities for which, legally, charges cannot be made.

Within these legal constraints, however, the Council recognises that each school governing body is responsible for its own charging and remissions policy. The Council encourages school governing bodies, in determining their policies, to be mindful of the financial circumstances of pupils and their parents.

The Council would also remind school governing bodies that pupils may be assisted, at their discretion, from the school's budget or fund account and that pupils must not be excluded from any school activity that extends or enriches the curriculum for their class / group because they have not made a contribution to the cost.

Charges:

Nottinghamshire County Council does not normally charge pupils or parents for any activity which it directly organises, except in the circumstances described in this document.

Optional Extras

Charges may be made for some activities that are known as 'optional extras'. Optional extras include:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - Part of the national curriculum
 - Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school e.g music or drama
 - Part of a religious education
- Transport
- Board and lodgings for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (e.g breakfast club, after school clubs)

In calculating the cost of the above optional extras an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- The cost of building and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra
- The cost, or appropriate proportion of costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils must not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Voluntary contributions

The Governing Body can ask for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, this should be made clear to parents at the outset. It should be made clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution and that no child will be excluded from any activity simply because his / her parents are unwilling / unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from another source, then it must be cancelled. Schools must ensure that they make this clear to parents.

Music Tuition

Although the law states that, in general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal tuition is exempt from the rule.

Charges may be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size, provided that this is a request of the pupil's parents. Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff who provide the provision. The regulations make clear that no charge may be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by a local authority.

School governing body responsibilities for other school activities

The responsibility for charging for other school activities, for which charges are permitted under the Education Act 1996, rests with each individual school governing body, although the Council expects that in determining their charging policies school governors will be mindful of the general principles set out in this document.

Residential visits

Charges may be made for the board and lodging element of any residential activities which take place during school hours. Any such charge will be calculated by reference to the actual cost of providing board and lodging for each pupil. Any optional extras may be included in the cost of the residential visit. These could include the following;

- The pupil's travel costs
- The pupil's board and lodging costs
- Non-teaching staff costs
- Materials, instruments and other equipment
- Entrance fees to places of interest
- Insurance costs
- The expenses only of any participating teachers engaged on a separate contract for services to provide the activity

Any charges must not exceed the actual cost of providing the visit.

Remissions:

Remission will be for pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium and on the basis of parents / carers in receipt of the following:

- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1st 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 Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after the person stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have a gross income of no more than £16,190)

Damage to school property and equipment

The school may invoice the parent / carer of a child who deliberately damages school property or equipment for a replacement or a repair.

Agreed at F&P committee Autumn 2024