

Graveley Primary School **A Church of England (VC)** **School**



Charging and Remissions **Policy**

Date policy updated	Summer Term 2025
Ratified by the Governing Board	21/5/2025
Date of next review	Summer Term 2027

This policy is written in accordance with from the Department for Education (DfE) on charging for school activities and the Education Act 1996, sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools in England.

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the Charging and Remissions Policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Headteacher.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the Charging and Remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

Staff

Our staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the Charging and Remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the Headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the Charging and Remissions policy.

Where charges can be made

The school may make a charge to parents for the following activities as permitted under the Act.

- Board and lodging for residential visits any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them.
- Costs associated with individual tuition and small group in playing a musical instrument, unless it is provided as part of the National Curriculum.
- Optional extra activities which take place wholly or mainly out of school hours which are not required in order to fulfil the needs of the National Curriculum or Agreed Syllabus for RE. Participation in such activities is on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet such charges as are made. For example, the school makes a nominal charge for all extra-curricular activities which take place outside normal school sessions. (see below for definition of school sessions).

- The cost of ingredients in cash or kind and materials used in practical subjects, such as DT and craft, if parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product.

Remissions

The charge for the board and lodging element of a residential visit will be remitted in the case of a pupil whose parents or guardians are in receipt of: *Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by HMRC) does not exceed £16,190, Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit - 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).

**This sum is updated annually. For the latest figures contact the school office.*

This would only apply to a residential trip made wholly or mainly during school hours which would be required as a statutory element of the National Curriculum or Agreed Syllabus for RE. When a trip is made wholly or mainly outside school hours the cost of the activity must be paid for in full and any remission of fees, such as for genuine cases of hardship, is entirely at the school's discretion. Hertfordshire County Council operate a remissions policy in relation to individual music tuition and details are available from www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/music-lessons-in-hertfordshire/help-with-music-fees.aspx

Voluntary Contributions

The school may ask for voluntary contributions towards the cost of:

- Any activity which takes place during school hours, including curriculum and non-curriculum events.
- School equipment.
- School funds generally.

These contributions will be genuinely voluntary and the pupils of parents or guardians who are unable or unwilling to contribute will not be discriminated against. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions made and there is no way of making up the shortfall the proposed activity will not go ahead.

School Sessions

Normal school sessions are as follows:

- Reception class and Key Stage One: 8.50am – 11:50am and 1.00pm – 3.20pm
- Key Stage Two: 8.50am – 12.00pm and 1.00pm – 3.25pm

The lunch hour does not count as a school session and charges may be made for extra-curricular activities that take place at this time.

Clubs

Breakfast Club is a non-profit, paid for service. The charges do not fully cover all costs but contribute towards the cost of food and staffing. In exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Head teacher and Governing Board, costs may be negotiated for a limited period of time.

Further guidance

Financial Handbook for Schools Part IV, section 11.
Governor's Guide to the Law, Chapter 23 Charging and Remissions Policy
(October 2024).