



Charging and Remissions

Approved by the Governing Board in September 2023

To be reviewed by the Governing Board in Autumn 2024 or earlier if required by legislation/guidance

Hillview Nursery School believes that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a wide range of visits and activities is offered and, at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

The 1996 Education Act requires all schools to have a policy on charging and remissions for school activities, which will be kept under regular review. The review date for this policy is recorded at the end of the document.

1. The policy identifies activities for which:

- charges will not be made.
- charges will be made.
- charges may be waived.

2. Voluntary contributions

Separately from the matter of charging, schools may always seek voluntary contributions in order to offer a wide variety of experiences to pupils. All requests for voluntary contributions will emphasise their voluntary nature and the fact that pupils of parents who do not make such contributions will be treated no differently from those who have.

The Law says:

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 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.

3. No charges will be made for

1. Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment);

2. Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;

3a. if it is part of the National Curriculum, or

b. part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or

4. Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip.

4. Activities for which charges may be made

a) Activities outside school hours

Charges may be made for non-residential activities (other than those listed above) which take place outside school hours but only if the majority of the time spent on that activity takes place outside school hours (time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours).

Activities which can be charged for (with the exception of board and lodging for residential trips) are regarded as 'optional extras'. Charges will not exceed the actual cost (per pupil) of provision

Activity or thing which will or may be charged for	Notes	Remitted or help available
Charges may be made for any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where a parent wishes their child to own them;	E.g. A clay model – a charge to cover the cost of the clay.	Variable
Charges may be made for music tuition	The cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument or singing, where the tuition is an optional extra for an individual pupil or groups of up to four pupils	Remission for category A

5. Remissions

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged pupils, the governing body has agreed that some activities and visits where charges can legally be made will be offered at a reduced charge to parents in particular circumstances. This remissions policy sets out the circumstances in which charges will be waived.

6. Families qualifying for remission or help with charges.

If remission or help is available in relation to a particular charge it is indicated in the right hand column of the table above. Parents should approach either the keyworker or Headteacher for clarification. Criteria for qualification for remission are given below.

Category A

Parents in receipt of:

- **Income Support (IS);**
- **Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);**
- **support under part VI 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 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 (Financial Year 2013/14);**
- **the guarantee element of State Pension Credit;**
- **an income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008;**
- **additional categories of parents/carers may claim help with some costs in some circumstances may be on occasion decided by the head teacher and governing body.**

7. Additional considerations

The governing board recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end we will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Where possible we shall publish a list of visits at the beginning of the school year so that parents can plan ahead
- On occasion consideration will be given to parents not claiming Category A benefits where family circumstances suggest support is needed
- We acknowledge that offering opportunities on a 'first pay, first served' basis discriminates against pupils from families on lower incomes and we will avoid that method of selection where possible
- Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions, fundraising and school budget
- The Governors reserve the right to charge parents if their child is found to be responsible for the wilful destruction of school property.