



Charging, Remissions & School Fund Policy

Governors' Committee Responsible:	Full Governing Body
Governor Lead:	Headteacher
Nominated Lead Member of Staff:	Louise Gallagher
Status & Review Cycle:	Statutory (Annual)
Next Review Date:	Spring 2025

Aims and Principles:

The school aims to provide a range of experiences to enrich and extend pupils' learning and contribute to personal development. All pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school visits, curricular and extra-curricular activities.

This policy sets out what we charge for, how we will try to make it manageable for parents and how we will help parents with limited incomes. It relates to the **School Fund Administration Policy**, which also sets out credit control procedures for managing payments and debt.

Charging for activities:

All activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum, including Religious Education, will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment or transport to take pupils between the school and the activity, if taking place off-site.

Unless the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), we will make a charge.

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs, for example, swimming, special activities involving high cost materials, our wider opportunities music programme, trips involving travelling to another venue or visitors to school who provide a service. In addition to this, charges will be made for teaching an individual pupil or groups of up to four pupils to play a musical instrument.

In all instances, pupils will not be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. However, if not enough contributions are received, the school reserves the right to cancel or amend the educational experience to cover the costs of providing this.

Chargeable Costs:

Charges will be made for materials, books, instruments or equipment if parents or guardians wish the pupil to own them. In all cases, the school will provide all the necessary equipment in school for lessons so as not to disadvantage the child's progress across the curriculum.

This means we will request parental donations for:

- Materials used in creative lessons if the child is expecting to take the finished product home
- Cookery ingredients if the child will take the result home
- Trips which are not part of the school curriculum or are outside the school day
- After school teacher-led clubs
- Music tuition if it is not required for the National Curriculum and is provided for an individual pupil or for groups of children

The charge will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity. Agreement for the charge will be obtained before the optional extra activity is provided. Where possible, an activities / trips matrix will be provided for parents in September to provide a helpful summary of planned activities throughout the year.

Residential Trips:

The school arranges optional Residential Trips, which offer excellent and exciting opportunities for our pupils. The school offers these at, or below cost, to our pupils and encourages participation through offering parents or guardians a range of payment plans to help spread the cost.

For those children who do not wish to participate in the residential trips, for whatever reason, a range of alternative stimulating activities are offered.

In accordance with the stated activities of our School Fund the Headteacher has the delegated discretionary authority to assist pupils financially up to £50 individually per pupil, per activity in any one year.

Voluntary Contributions:

Nothing in legislation prevents a school Governing Body from asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities. Voluntary contributions may be requested to help with providing activities, even though they may be part of the normal school day or part of the National Curriculum.

All requests to parents for voluntary contributions must make it quite clear that the contributions are voluntary. If the parent is unable or unwilling to pay, the child will not be excluded from the activity. However, if not enough contributions are received, the school reserves the right to cancel or amend the educational experience to cover the costs of providing this. Parents will be advised of this when the voluntary contribution is requested.

Support for families:

At Shottermill Junior School, we pride ourselves on our positive relationships with families and the support we provide to families in need advice or guidance. Parents or guardians who are finding it difficult to meet any financial costs for supporting their child's access to education, should ask for a private meeting with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns.

In addition to this, the Home School Link Worker, Vicky Noble, is an invaluable member of the Shottermill team, who is always on hand to signpost families to agencies or services who can offer support whatever the concern. Please ask for the HSLW's contact details at the School Office.

Teacher led school clubs:

The **Haslemere Confederation of Schools** has agreed that charging for teacher-run clubs, which is also a form of childcare, is a helpful way to cover the additional costs of running these activities in schools. We aim to ensure that teacher-led clubs are affordable and we charge a flat-rate fee for all clubs attended per term, which makes this more affordable to parents, especially if they have more than more child. Please see Appendix 1 for our shared agreement.



Teacher Led Clubs and Extended Services Haslemere Confederation Agreement

Autumn Term 2023

All schools in the Confederation are dedicated to providing a well-rounded and extensive education for our pupils which includes a wide range of extra-curricular activities and extended services. These enable our school to provide:

- High-quality learning opportunities at the end of the school day;
- Ways of intervening early when children are at risk of poor outcomes, e.g. by providing access to homework clubs;
- Ways of increasing pupil engagement;
- Ways of improving outcomes and narrowing gaps in outcomes between different groups of pupils.

The Confederation offer a number of after school clubs led by teachers and non-teaching staff ('teacher-led clubs') and these also provide childcare for parents and guardians. Due to ongoing funding cuts from the Government, increased cost of living and restricted budgets for each of the schools in the Confederation, there will be a charge for all teacher-led clubs. This charge will help cover the cost of staff engaged to provide the activity or club, as well as resources and other associated costs.

Each school will be free to determine their charges for providing after school clubs. Payment will need to be made to secure a place at the club and non-payment may prevent a child joining a club. If a child is in receipt of Free School Meals and parents cannot meet the cost, they will be asked to contact the School Office to discuss this.

This cost will be reviewed on an annual basis each summer term and parents/guardians will be advised of any cost increases in good time, before September. The cost per club will be **£15.50**, per club attended, per child.

Originally agreed: **July 2019**

Updated: **February 2024**