

FBPS Charging & Remissions Policy

FBPS provides a creative curriculum for our children; it is recognised that educational visits enhance teaching and learning.

Where education is provided wholly or mainly during school hours, it should be free. It is therefore not possible to levy a *compulsory charge* for transport or admission costs for swimming lessons or for visits to museums, etc. during school hours.

However, without financial support, we would not be able to maintain the quality and number of educational experiences we provide.

Voluntary Contributions

Parents might be asked for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

- any activity which takes place during school hours
- any school equipment
- school funds generally

Every effort is made to keep the costs reasonable and most activities are subsidised by the school budget or through fundraising. Charges are based on actual costs incurred, divided by numbers of pupils attending.

The contribution will be genuinely voluntary, though, and the children of parents who are unable or unwilling to contribute will not be discriminated against.

Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, the activity will be cancelled.

Residential Visits

For Residential Visits we are permitted to charge for the cost of board and lodging; this cost must not exceed the actual cost of the provision.

Parents are given time to pay via instalments to help spread the overall cost. Families experiencing financial difficulties may approach the school to be considered for a remission.

If there are insufficient contributions to make up the shortfall, the residential trip will be cancelled. Costs will often be subsidised from school funds.

Remissions

In circumstances of family hardship that make it difficult for children to take part in a particular activity for which a contribution is requested, parents may apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or full.

Authorisation for the remission of charges will be made by the Headteacher as the decision will depend upon funds available.

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