

DREW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Charging and Remissions Policy



'Learning today for tomorrow's world'

CHARGING and REMISSIONS POLICY

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that there is clarity over those items which the school will provide free of charge and for those items where there may be a charge. During the school day all activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum plus religious education will be provided free of charge, with the exception of individual or group music tuition (see below). This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take students between the school and the activity. When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of students participating. There may be subsidy from the school towards the cost. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising. Parents who would qualify for support are those who are in receipt of eligible benefits (see under paragraph 7 below). The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

2. Voluntary Contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make any voluntary contribution we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity providing parental consent is received. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may have to cancel a trip. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded and the school will provide this information on request.

3. Optional Extras

Charges may be made for some activities that are known as 'optional extras'. Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge can be made. Optional Extras may include:

1. Education provided outside of school hours
2. Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority/governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education);
3. Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit. (Parents who are in receipt of certain benefits will be subsidised. Details can be obtained from the School Office)
4. Extended day services offered to pupils (for example breakfast club, afterschool clubs).

4. Music Tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum.

5. Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for some year groups. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. We inform

parents when these lessons are to take place and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

6. School Dinners

Currently free for all pupils in Newham Primary Schools.

7. Remissions

Children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement may also be entitled to part subsidy. The relevant support payments are:

- A. Income Support;
- B. Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- C. Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- D. Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) does not exceed the sum given in the Revenue and Customs rules.
- E. The guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- F. An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27th October 2008.

Additional considerations:

As an inclusive school it is our wish not to allow financial issues to prevent a child whose family is facing genuine hardship from participating in a residential or after school activity. In such cases the Head Teacher will discuss with the family ways of reducing the burden.

The governing body recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances and the schools will do all they can to support families in difficulty.

Statutory Guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/365929/charging_for_school_activities_-_October_2014.pdf