Learning Together,
Growing Together

Bywell CE (C) Junior School

Charging and Remissions Policy

2026

Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for activities; what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of the school are responsible for determining the content of the policy and the Headteacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the Headteacher and Governing Body.

CHARGING POLICY

1. Trips and residential visits

If the school organises a trip within school hours which enriches the National Curriculum, the school invites parents to make a contribution towards the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

Where the trip involves an educational residential visit, a charge will be made for board and lodging but it will not exceed the cost charged to the school.

2. 'Optional Extras' and chargeable trips

The school offers additional optional activities and trips outside of the normal school hours and/or outside of the National Curriculum. We strive to provide these free of charge to ensure they are accessible to all children. However, if necessary, we reserve the right to make charges to all children attending these optional activities to cover costs, including transport, board and lodgings in the case of non-educational residential visits.

3. Damage/Loss to property

The school may charge for the cost of replacing items that are damaged or lost due to the negligence or poor behaviour of pupils or their parents. Parents will only be charged the replacement cost to purchase the same or equivalent item. The school will consider waiving costs in exceptional circumstances, e.g. financial hardship.

4. Lettings

The school will make its facilities available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges is dependent on the user and is set by the Governing Body in line with the School's Lettings Policy.

REMISSIONS POLICY

1. Trips and residential visits

Children in receipt of free school meals will not be charged for board and lodgings for residential visits that support the National Curriculum although they may be invited to make a voluntary contribution.

If any parent of any child in the school is experiencing hardship regarding any visit, they are invited to speak to the Head teacher (SLT) or Business Manager (SLT) in confidence.

2. General

The Governing Body may from time to time decide to remit (not charge) all or part of the costs of activities involving particular pupils.