



Coed Y Brain Primary School



Charging & Remissions



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Charging and Remissions Policy



Introduction

The Governing Body believes that pupils' experiences are enriched, and the education provided by the school is broadened by activities which take place outside the school.

Several activities, such as visits to the church, chapels or other parts of the village will not involve extra costs. Other activities, such as a museum visit or residential trip, will have a cost, and the school does not have the funds to pay for the pupils.

Legal Position

The 1988 Education Act sets out the legal framework for charging for activities.

All charges made by the school must be by voluntary contribution for those activities directly involved with the curriculum. No pupils can be excluded from an activity because they or their parents are unable or unwilling to pay.

The exceptions to this rule are:

- On residential trips, when the school can charge for board and lodging
- For individual and small group music tuition, which can be charged at cost

Any charge levied, or contribution invited, must only be the actual cost of a child's participation, and may not include the cost of teacher expenses or a subsidy for other pupils.

Approach of the school

Clearly there could be difficulties if some parents were prepared to make a voluntary contribution while others were not, as the school has no extra funding to cover the costs.

The school will ask for voluntary contributions from parents when the school organises a visit as part of the curriculum, which cannot be financed, from the school's delegated budget. Letters to parents about educational visits will explain that contributions will be voluntary and fixed at a level to fund fully the activity. Letters will then state that if sufficient contributions are not received to cover the cost of the activity, the event will be cancelled.

No pupil can be denied an activity because he or she, or their parents, are unable to afford the voluntary contribution.

Residential Trips

The Act allows Governing bodies to make a charge for the cost of board and lodging on all residential trips. The Act also requires that financial help must be available for pupils whose families are in receipt of Income Support or Family Credit. Parents must be informed of this when pupils are invited to take part in a residential activity.

It will be the school's policy to ask for a deposit from each participating child well in advance of the residential trip, as an indication of the level of interest, and consequently the viability or otherwise of the residential visit,

It will be made clear to parents that facilities will be available for them to pay for residential trips in instalments.

The school will also make it clear that financial help is available towards the cost of residential trips for those parents who are in receipt of Income Support or Family Credit.

Educational 'Day Visits'

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents and carers to contribute to the cost. 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 or carers have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents and carers have a right to know how each trip is funded, and the school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents and carers. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums.
- sporting activities which require transport expenses.
- outdoor adventure activities.
- visits to or by a theatre company.
- school trips abroad.
- musical events.

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do suggest a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through these voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled, and that aspect of the curriculum would have to be covered in other ways.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. There is no charge for individual or small-group music tuition. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. We inform parents and carers when these lessons are to take place, and we seek the written permission of parents or carers for their children to take part.

After School Extra-Curricular Provision by External Providers

The school offers additional provision of this sort after school. A qualified instructor, who is not a member of the school staff, may run and organise these sessions. We make a small (usually subsidised) charge for these sessions.