

Charging and Refunds Policy

Charges for School Activities

Legislation allows schools to charge for certain activities, which take place both inside and outside, school hours. Norfolk County Council has adopted a policy, which it recommends to governors, but it is for governors of schools to decide whether or not to follow the policy. The School's charging policy must be described in its brochure, which can be obtained from the school.

If your son or daughter's school governors follow the County Council's charging policy, these are the activities and materials for which you will be charged:

- **Music tuition:** individual tuition in playing a musical instrument, which is neither part of the syllabus for an approved public examination, nor part of the National Curriculum. Schools may charge for instrumental tuition given to groups of no more than four pupils.
- **Ingredients and materials:** ingredients and materials for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance that they wish to receive the finished articles.
- **Travel:** the cost of travel when a pupil makes use of transport not provided by the authority or school, to travel direct from home to an activity approved of, but not provided by, the authority or school.
- **Board and lodging:** board and lodging will be charged in all cases where a school activity involves pupils in nights away from home.

Activities outside school hours

A charge will be made for all non-residential activities, which take place wholly, or more than 50% outside school hours, where the child's participation has been agreed in advance by the parents. The charge will include the cost of travel, entrance fees, insurance, books, equipment and any staff (teaching or non-teaching) engaged specifically for the activity. Residential trips outside school hours - a residential trip is deemed to take place outside school hours if the number of 'missed' school sessions is less than half of the number of half days taken up by the trip. Charges will be made as described above.

Remission of charges - only parents who are in receipt of Income Support, Working Families' Credit, Disabled Person's Tax Credit or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance are eligible for remission of charges. Remission of charges only applies to board and lodgings charges, which are levied directly by the LEA or the school and where they relate to activities, deemed to take place wholly or partly in school hours.

Remission will not apply to such charges when they relate to activities wholly outside school hours, except if the activity is prescribed in a syllabus for a public examination, if it is prescribed by the National Curriculum or fulfils duties relating to Religious Education.

Parents who have difficulty meeting any charges should discuss the matter in confidence with the headteacher.

Refunds Policy

The full contribution to an activity will be refunded if a child is absent due to illness. If a trip has to be cancelled parental contributions will be refunded. If contributions to an activity exceed the total cost a refund will be given over and above the amount of £3.00 per child. Excess income under three pounds will be paid into the main school account. Excess expenditure will be funded by the main school account