



Crompton
Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

Crompton Primary School

Charging Policy

The charging policy of Crompton Primary School is consistent with the aims and ethos of the School.

At Crompton Primary School we reinforce the objectives of the charging provisions in the Education Reform Act of 1988:

1. To establish the right to free school education;
2. To establish that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of the parent's ability or willingness to help meet the cost;
3. To emphasise that there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to give LEA and schools the discretion to charge optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours; and
4. To confirm the right of LEAs and schools to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, whether during or outside school hours.

Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 sets out the law for charging for school activities for schools maintained by Local Authorities in England. This policy reflects the terms of the Education Act 1996 and provides a reference point for all stakeholders.

Charging for activities and materials used in support of the curriculum

The Governors reiterate the equal right of access to the whole curriculum by any pupil within the school. This curriculum will be delivered to all pupils of statutory school age without charge. At the same time it is recognised that activities and materials, which could not be made freely available within the scope of existing resources, may enrich the curriculum and these activities and materials will only be available if sufficient voluntary contributions are available from parents.

Activities outside the curriculum

The Governors recognise that certain activities, whilst lying outside the scope of the school curriculum do support the education, nurture and development of the pupils. It is the intention of the Governors to charge for such activities, always with the provision that requests for financial support from parents will, under the conditions outlined below, be treated sympathetically.

Details of charges to be made

- i. Pupils personal equipment

The provision of clothing is specifically excluded from the Act (It is the policy of the Governors that pupils should wear the specified school uniform as outlined in the School Prospectus). Parents will be expected to provide clothing for PE, though not for team kits used when representing school. Parents may be eligible for clothing/discretionary grants details of which can be obtained from the LA.

ii. Provision of textbooks and writing books/paper

The school will provide such materials as are required for the teaching and learning of the curriculum. Should such materials that are issued to pupils become lost or damaged, then parents will be required to reimburse the school for their replacement cost.

iii. Provision of materials for use in the curriculum

Some areas of the curriculum enable pupils to complete projects that they will later wish to own. When this is the case, then parents will be expected to meet the cost of the materials provided. The school for its part will provide such basic materials as will enable pupils to complete that area of study, and learn the principles involved in it. In such cases the school will determine the lowest cost of enabling this to happen and the materials used.

iv. Optional provision / activities

Where an 'optional extra' non statutory activity is provided e.g. afternoon nursery care requiring the statutory allocation of a qualified teacher, the governors reserve the right to pass on this cost to parents through this charging policy.

Participation in any optional extra activity is on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary prerequisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges are made.

Provision of out of school visits

i. As part of the school/curriculum

There will be no compulsory charge for such activities except in the case of board and lodging on residential visits. At the same time, the Governors recognise that such activities could not be provided out of resources as exist at that time. It would be the intention of Governors to seek voluntary contributions from parents as would cover the cost of such activities. Should such contributions not be forthcoming then these activities could not take place and alternative syllabuses not involving such costs would need to be devised. In the case of residential visits e.g. Castleshaw, the cost of board and lodging will be charged to parents (except those in receipt of income support or family credit)

ii. As an activity outside the curriculum

Many activities take place that, whilst not being an essential part of the school or an examination syllabus, do support work inside the curriculum and develop the social and cultural awareness of pupils.

The participation in these activities by pupils is largely a matter of parental choice. Where they take place mainly outside school hours parents will be expected to pay the whole cost of a pupil's participation and this cost may include: the expenses of teachers who are accompanying the trip, travel, board and lodging; materials; books and other equipment, entrance fees and insurance costs. Where these activities take place mainly inside school hours then they will be open to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to pay. In these cases a voluntary contribution will be sought from parents.

If the voluntary contributions fail to cover the whole cost of the activity then it will not take place. Refunds will only be issued if school has to cancel the activity.

Payment for damage to school property

Parents will be expected to pay the replacement cost of school property that has been damaged by a pupil through negligence or maliciousness. Parents will also be expected to pay for the loss of equipment by pupils.

School fund and cases of hardship

Parents may wish to voluntarily support the work of the school with financial contributions and will be invited from time to time to do so. The funds so generated may be used to support the activities described in this document and alleviate cases of hardship. Where voluntary contributions to an activity result in a surplus finance over and above the cost of the activity, the surplus will be placed in the school fund to support other activities.

Instrumental tuition

The Governors support the development of instrumental tuition within the school for pupils who wish to learn an orchestral instrument. Parents are asked to make a regular financial commitment towards the total cost. In extreme cases of financial hardship the possibility of financial support from the School would be investigated.

Remissions Policy

The Headteacher or Governing Body may decide not to levy charges in respect of a particular activity, if it is felt that it is reasonable in the circumstances. Complete remission of any charges for board and lodging for a residential trip will be made if:

- The education provided on that trip cannot be charged for; and
- The pupil's parents/carers are in receipt of:
 - Income Support
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
 - Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

It is an over-riding principle of Crompton Primary School that all activities should be available to all pupils and the Governors will endeavour to support pupils in cases of genuine financial hardship.