

# Longmoor Community Primary School

## Charging & Remissions Policy

Education for pupils in maintained schools is free of charge if it takes place wholly or mainly in school hours or outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum.

Where charges may not be levied, the school may invite parents to make voluntary contributions. Any pupils involved in the trip will be allowed to participate whether or not their parents have made a voluntary contribution and they should not be discriminated against if their parents are unwilling or unable to contribute. Should significant shortfalls in funding theatre groups, music workshops and other optional extras become apparent school may find it necessary to cancel that activity or planned future activities.

School does ask for voluntary contributions of £1.50 per week to help defray the very considerable expenses of hiring pool, transport and swimming teacher. These are only asked for from those pupils who have swimming lessons and these contributions are most welcome.

The school is allowed to charge for 'optional extras', activities that do not fall under the categories mentioned above. Participation, however, in such activities will be on the basis of parents agreeing to meet any charges and, in any particular case, the charge levied will not exceed the cost of provision of the activity. School is thus able to charge for music lessons provided as an extra activity to timetabled curriculum music lessons. The Local Authority's Peripatetic Music Service provides these lessons and school charges a reasonable sum for a weekly lesson. This amount is currently £4.00 per week, payable as a full half term in advance. This amount does not cover the full cost; the substantial remaining cost is borne out of the school budget.

We are advised that parents should ensure that all musical instruments are covered by their own insurance. Parents will be expected to pay for any loss or damage to musical instruments loaned to children by Liverpool Schools' Music Service.

School also charges a nominal amount to cover the costs of after school clubs/activities. This allows school to purchase consumables used in the course of the club sessions, cover the cost of materials that experience wear and tear as well as partially cover premises expenses. Club activities organised by third parties are not subject to the charging regulations but charges have to be paid directly to the organisation.

Schools are permitted to charge for the cost of board & lodgings during residential school trips. This cost must not exceed the actual cost of the provision. Where the trip takes place wholly or mainly, during school hours, children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits will, in addition to a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of these charges. A similar entitlement also applies where a trip takes place outside school hours if it is necessary as part of the National Curriculum.

**This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body.**