



## **GUCS Charging and Remissions Policy 2022**

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs and visits, can make towards a pupils education. Grendon School aims to promote and provide such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities.

The relevant statutory provisions are contained in Chapter III of Pt VI of the Education Act 1996. This requires the Governing Body to determine and keep under review a Charging and Remissions Policy.

Parents have a right to ask for this information and a summary must be included in the school prospectus. The school must also comply with the Buckinghamshire County Council Scheme for Financing Schools, Finance Section F7

### **Charges for Educational Activities.**

There are two types of financial contributions for which parents can be asked in relation to educational activities:

- Voluntary contributions
- Permitted charges

They have different limitations as set out below.

#### **Voluntary Contributions:**

There is no limit to the level of voluntary contribution that may be asked for or any restriction on the way in which it is used e.g. to include insurances, but the school pledges not to inflate these costs to subsidise the costs of pupils unable **or** unwilling to pay this voluntary contribution.

Letters requesting a voluntary contribution for an activity must indicate that there is no obligation to contribute and that pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request or invitation.

No child will be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. Parents are encouraged to speak to the school in confidence if they find themselves unable to make these contributions as support is always available to ensure every child has access to the fullest curriculum.

If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, then it may be necessary to cancel a trip, with contributions being refunded in part or full where committed expenditure has been met by parent contributions.



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### **Permitted Charges:**

Permitted charges are a direct request to cover certain costs involved with a school activity or visit. No charge can be made in respect of education provided during school hours.

Furthermore, no charge can be made for any education provided outside of school hours if this forms part of the National Curriculum or religious education. A charge may be made however for board and lodgings on any residential educational visit.

### **1 Music Tuition**

Although the law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, additional music lessons are an exception to this rule, should parents wish to book peripatetic lessons as the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the Pupil.

### **2 Residential Activities/Activities Outside School Hours**

If the activity is held outside school hours and is education other than non-chargeable education, then it is regarded as an “optional extra”. A charge may be made for the full cost of the activity but must not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity. The charge may include the costs of travel, board and lodgings, additional staff costs, entrance fees, insurance, materials and equipment. However, the charge made to individual parents cannot include any cost added to subsidise parents of children who are unwilling or unable to pay the charge. Parents are encouraged to speak to a member of staff in confidence as support is always available.

### **3 Damage/Loss to Property**

A charge may be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of school property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials), the charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Headteacher may decide.

### **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 will be determined annually by the Resources Committee and approved by the Governing Body.



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### **Remissions Policy.**

Where non-chargeable education is provided during a residential visit, then the parents of a pupil who is eligible for free school lunch shall receive a complete remission of any charges that would otherwise be payable in respect of board or lodgings.

Under current regulations children whose parents receive the following support payments are eligible for free school meals:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- An Income-related employment and support allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

### **Debts accrued**

The school reserves the right to cease school meals should an account be in arrears of more than £12.50. Parents will be notified via e-mail if their account is £10.00 or more in arrears and payment requested.

No child will ever be left without a meal should the account be in arrears. A phone call home to bring in a packed lunch will be made from the office, should a lunch be requested at morning registration.