

HOLY TRINITY PEWLEY DOWN
A Federation of Holy Trinity Junior & Pewley Down Infant Schools, Guildford

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

The Governing Body of Holy Trinity Pewley Down School recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities offered by the school, including trips and after school clubs, can make towards pupils' educational experience.

The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities.

1. CHARGES

Activities outside school during school hours

Occasionally the programme of studies of a particular class would be enhanced by visits, walks and outings. Any extra costs associated with such activities may be covered by requesting voluntary contributions from parents. Where residential trips are mainly within school hours, a charge may be made for the board and lodging costs of all qualifying pupils and supervising adults divided by the number of qualifying pupils.

The Governors fully support curriculum enrichment but point out that enough parents need to make the contribution to enable the activity to take place.

If an activity or trip goes ahead, no qualifying pupil will be excluded or treated differently on the grounds of not making the voluntary contribution.

See section 2 – Remissions – for information about possible exemptions from residential trip charges and assistance with payments.

Activities outside school hours

The Governing Body will expect all activities wholly or mainly outside school hours not to incur a cost to the school budget unless the Governing Body has been consulted and decided otherwise. Such activities are known as optional extras and may include some residential trips and afterschool clubs.

The qualifying cost to each pupil of all approved activities deemed to be optional extras taking place outside school hours will be charged.

See section 2 – Remissions – for information about possible exemptions from residential trip charges and assistance with payments.

Music tuition

Where the school provides any voluntary instrumental and vocal music tuition where participation is at parents' request, this will be charged at cost.

Damage to property

The Governing Body reserves the right to ask parents to contribute to the cost of repairs or of replacing defaced, damaged or lost property where this is a result of a pupil's inappropriate behaviour.

Voluntary contributions

The Governing Body may from time to time amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made, subject to what is permissible in law. Nothing in this policy statement precludes the Governing Body from inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of additional activities which take place in school time or for the benefit of the school or any other school activities. Parents may be advised that the continuance of an activity may depend upon voluntary contributions, but once it has been decided to run such an activity no qualifying child will be excluded on the grounds of not making voluntary contributions.

2. REMISSIONS

Where the parents of a pupil can demonstrate that they are in receipt of the benefits listed below (the same criteria as free school meal eligibility), they may be exempt from paying some residential trip charges. Such parents should speak to the Headteacher.

Qualifying benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State 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

In addition, where pupils are eligible for pupil premium, or where parents do not fall into the above categories but are experiencing financial difficulties, the Governing Body may wish to remit in full or in part the cost of qualifying activities that take place during the school day and also residential trips and other optional extras. Authorisation for such remission will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body Finance Committee.

It should be noted that if there are not enough voluntary contributions made towards trips and other optional extras, or there are not enough hardship funds to cover all such cases, a trip or activity may have to be cancelled.

Date Issued: January 2015

Date last reviewed: June 2016

Date for next review: June 2017

Signed:

Steve Britain
Governor of Holy Trinity Junior & Pewley Down Infant Schools
Finance Committee