

Charging and Remissions Policy

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Vision

At Oak Learning Trust we are committed to an engaging and exciting education for all children that supports the development of the whole child. Our curriculum therefore includes a number of trips, visits and residential visits through the year.

We believe that all pupils should take part in all opportunities and will work hard to ensure that no child is excluded from any activity.

All school trips, visits and residential visits are subsidised for all pupils and no child will be excluded on the basis of financial considerations. We use part of our school budgets to ensure that this is true.

1. Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

2. Voluntary Contributions

- 2.1 When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, schools invite parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.
- 2.2 If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.
- 2.3 The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive.
 - Visits to museums;
 - Outdoor adventure activities
 - Visits to the theatre
 - Musical events

3. Residential Visits

- 3.1 If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodgings.

3.2 Where a residential trip involves a mix of National Curriculum and non National Curriculum objectives or does not take place mainly in school time we may charge for these aspects.

3.3 All residential trips are subsidised by the school and children whose families are in receipt of relevant support payments may make a reduced contribution. Other pupils may also receive a reduction in cost, following discussion with parents/carers, at the discretion of the Head Teacher. The relevant support payments are:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit,
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit.

4. Music Tuition

4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

4.2 There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. Parents in receipt of state benefits (those who qualify for free meals) are charged 50% of the cost. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year, or as the opportunity arises.

5. Swimming

5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for all children as part of a swimming programme, linked to our PE curriculum. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, so they can provide the required kit.

6. Football or other Coaching

6.1 From time to time the school offers additional coaching after school. This is usually from qualified coaches, not a member of the school staff. We may make a small charge for these sessions, and they are open to all children in the target year group regardless of any particular ability, or the ability to pay.