

# Charging & Remissions Policy

Charging & Remissions Policy April 2015

## Introduction

The 1996 Education Act requires all schools to have a policy on charging and remissions for school activities, which will be kept under regular review.

The policy identifies activities for which:

- voluntary contributions may be requested
- charges will be made
- charges will not be made.
- charges may be waived

Oaklands school believes that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits independent of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered and, at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

## Voluntary contributions

Separately from the matter of charging, schools may always seek voluntary contributions in order to offer a wide variety of experiences to pupils. All requests for voluntary contributions will emphasise their voluntary nature and the fact that pupils of parents who do not make such contributions will be treated no differently from those who have.

At Oaklands we request that parents make a voluntary contribution termly to the cost of providing daily snack and drinks and occasional treats such as a small gift at Christmas, special parties and events in school throughout the year. The amount requested is reviewed annually.

While the majority of school trips are funded from the school budget a minority of trips where there is a significant entrance fee parents are invited to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of tickets.

Activities for which charges are not made

Most trips and visits

Examination entries

Therapies provided during school hours as indicated as a need in a child's Statement or Education Health Care Plan.

Transport for curriculum activities including travel training (parents will be asked to apply for bus passes to which their children are entitled for use during travel training)

Use of public sports facilities used during PE lessons

Materials used during curriculum activities

Charges may be made for

- Residential trips made outside school hours.

At present the only activity for which a charge is made is inclusion in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which requires overnight stay. In this case the charge is a voluntary contribution.

- After school activities

Oaklands has in the past made a charge for after school clubs.

NB Oaklands does not currently offer after school activities as take up is too low. Parents will be consulted occasionally on demand.

## **Remissions**

At present Oaklands School does not make charges for any activities for which it might consider making a remission.

Review date 2018