

Milton Abbot School



Charging & Remissions Policy

Finance Governor

Review Required Annually or on Change of Model Policy

Current Policy: December 2021 (from the Model policy September 2013)

REVIEW NOTES

<p>Date of review:</p> <p>7th December 2020</p> <p>13th December 2021</p>	<p>Notes:</p>
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September 2013

For further advice & guidance in relation to this policy, please contact HR ONE at hrdirect@devon.gov.uk or on 01392 385555.

Context: The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced new provisions on charging for school activities. The purposes of these provisions are:

- to maintain the right to a free school education.
- to ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within normal school time should be available to all pupils, regardless of their parent's ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
- to give educational authorities and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours.
- **to confirm that schools may invite voluntary contributions** for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, either in or outside school hours.

The Governors believe that activities such as swimming and educational visits (or visitors) are an extension to, and an enrichment of the curriculum. They have adopted the LA Policy of Charging for School Activities, which allows the school to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to support these activities. The policy is reviewed annually.

1 Introduction

1.1 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 some individual or small-group music tuition.

2 Voluntary contributions

2.1 When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. 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 The 1988 Education Act draws a distinction between the term 'charges' which are considered to be an obligatory cost and 'voluntary contributions' which are self-explanatory.

2.3 Subsidies from various sources e.g. Milton Abbot School's PTFA, voluntary organisations, will be considered to cover deficits.

2.4 Whenever possible, the school will give sufficient notice to allow parent/carers to pay by instalments.

2.5 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 do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. If insufficient contributions are collected the school may have to cancel or postpone the event if a shortfall in funding. A balance is considered over the year to ensure parents and the school funds are not stretched beyond capacity. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

2.6 The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- school trips;
- musical events.
- transport

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 make a charge to cover the costs of any workshops, board, lodging and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to speak in confidence to the Headteacher.

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 if we offer individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5 Swimming

5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and although are part of the National Curriculum, we do ask for a voluntary contribution towards the costs. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part.

6 Lunch time / After School Sport and Creative Activities

6.1 The school offers additional activities after school and during lunch breaks. We reserve the right to make a small charge for these sessions.