



CHARGING and REMISSIONS POLICY
OUR LADY OF PITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reviewed by the Finance Committee on 11th February 2015

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

1. Wirral Local Authority endorses the principles that education provided in maintained schools should be free and that no pupil's education should be affected by his or her parent's unwillingness or inability to pay or to contribute towards the cost of pupil's education.
2. Pupils should not be required to pay for any materials, books, instruments or other equipment for use in connection with education provided during school hours; but schools may charge for or require the supply of ingredients or materials for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product. (For personal music tuition however, charges will be made.)
3. No charge shall be made by Our Lady of Pity RC Primary (A Voluntary Academy) or by any governing body for any activity taking place in school time, but charges may be made to cover the costs of board and lodging on residential trips.
4. In respect of activities defined as "optional extras" under the terms of the Education Reform Act 1988, charges may be made by the governors to cover the costs of board and lodging, travel, materials, books or other equipment, entrance fees, teaching and non-teaching staff and any other costs attributable to the provision of activities
5. The school follows government legislation that states that all education provided during school hours must be free; however, music lessons are an exception to this rule.

Charges will be made if the teaching is **not** an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), or the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (Wider Opportunities).

The school may charge for teaching requested by parents and delivered by specialist tutors given to either an individual pupil or groups of any appropriate size (provided that the size of the group is based on sound pedagogical principles) to play a musical instrument or to sing. The cost of these lessons may depend on the size and duration of the class as well as the type of instrument.

The school will not charge if the music tuition is part of the National Curriculum or public examination syllabus being followed by the student

Remissions and Concessions

The school will give consideration to the remission of charges to parents or carers who receive the following support payments:

- Income Support
- Income based Job-seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (where the person is not receiving Working Tax Credit as well)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Income related employment and support allowance

Children of families who receive these payments are also entitled to free school meals. Parents who are eligible for the remission of charges will be dealt with confidentially.

The headteacher and chair of governors will authorise the remission of charges.

The school may choose to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and pupils, and this will be determined by the governing body and headteacher.

Voluntary contributions

The Governing Body may ask for voluntary contributions to the school to fund activities that will enrich our pupils' education.

In any case where an activity cannot be afforded without voluntary funding, this will be made clear to the parents by the school. If the activity is cancelled all monies paid will be returned to parents.

There is no obligation for a parent or carer to make any contribution and the school will in no way pressure parents to make a contribution.

Inability or unwillingness to pay

Our Lady of Pity is committed to ensuring fair access and treatment of all pupils, and this means ensuring that no child is excluded from an activity because the parents or carers of that child are unwilling or unable to pay. If there is insufficient funding for an activity, then it will be cancelled.

The identity of the child or parents of the child who did not want to make the payment, or could not make the payment, will not be disclosed under any circumstances.