Thorndown Pre-School

Charging & Remissions Policy

Our aspiration is that Thorndown Primary will be an outstanding school.

We value and respect everyone in our community and work as a team to:

- Provide learning experiences which support and inspire high achievement for all;
- Ensure a caring, safe and welcoming environment;
- Promote co-operative and responsible attitudes to make a positive contribution;
- Actively encourage independence and confidence to thrive in a changing world.

Approved at Learning & Development committee meeting on 25th January 2024

Review Period: 2 years

Date for next review: Spring 2026

Charging and Remissions Policy

Introduction

The Governing Body of Thorndown Primary School recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, music tuition, visits and residential experiences can make towards pupils personal and social education.

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.

Charges

The Governing Body reserves the right to charge a contribution in the following circumstances for activities organised by the school:

- Activities in school hours: charges may be made for the board and lodging element of residential activities that take place in school hours.
- Activities out of school hours: a charge will be made to cover the full cost of each pupil for activities deemed to be optional activities out of school hours e.g. theatre visits, sporting/musical events.
- Contributions in kind: the cost of materials, ingredients, equipment (or the provision of them by parents) e.g. for cooking, some craft and technology activities. Schools must be prepared to provide or pay for any ingredients, materials etc. for practical subjects. Parents who are willing to contribute in cash or kind can however be encouraged to do so on a voluntary basis. The school may charge or require the supply of materials if parents have indicated a wish to own the finished product.
- Breakages: Parents will be asked to pay the full cost of a reasonable amount towards the cost of any damage or defacing to school property which is due to poor pupil behaviour.
- School meals for pupils in KS2: the school will charge parents for school meals at the same rate to which the school is charged (less VAT).
- Children entitled to Free School Meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals will have a main meal ordered each day free of charge.
- School lunches for visiting parents / siblings and adult members of staff ordering a school meal will be charged at current rate plus VAT
- Charges in line with Freedom of Information Requests Policy

Voluntary Contributions

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.
Such contributions are voluntary and no parent is under any obligation to make a contribution. Pupils will not be treated differently if they have not made a contribution.

Parents will be notified how charges have been arrived at and exactly what each child can expect to receive for any charge made. However, if there are not enough voluntary contributions collected towards the cost of running a trip it may become necessary to cancel it. Parents will be notified if this becomes to case, as soon as possible.

The Governing Body may, from time to time, amend the category of activity for which a charge is made.

Remissions

The school places great importance in providing a full range of curricular activities which support children in their learning. It is recognised that in organising such a regular programme of trips, visits and visitors, some parents may find it difficult to meet a charge or make a voluntary contribution. In its budget planning the school has provided limited resources to help offset the costs of day visits and residential trips. These activities would otherwise be payable by parents in accordance with the charging policy.

Through the application of the Pupil Premium Funding charges will be remitted or assisted for pupils whose parents have been awarded Pupil Premium Funding. Applications for assistance should be made to the Headteacher.