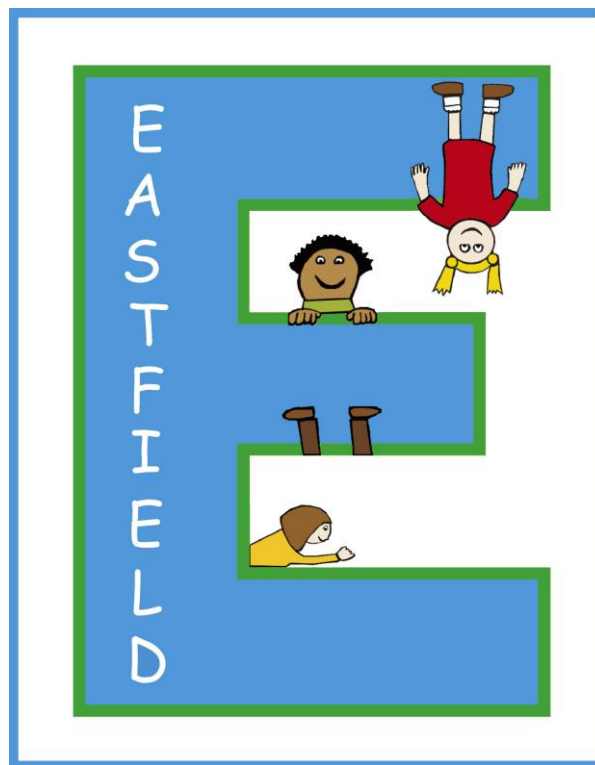


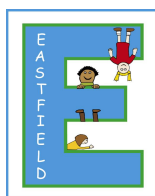
Charges and Remission Policy

September 2024



Eastfield Primary School

Approved by the Governing Board of Eastfield Primary School 15th July 2024
Compiled by School Business Manager



Eastfield Primary School **Charging and Remissions Policy for Parents and Carers**

Introduction

The Governing Body of Eastfield Primary School recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including enrichment visits, after school clubs and residential experiences can make towards pupils' 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.

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum. However, for certain activities we may charge or ask for voluntary contributions.

In accordance with Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996, the Governors have drawn up the following charging and remissions policy. This was approved by the Governing Board of Eastfield Primary School on 15th July 2024 and will be reviewed annually.

This policy shall be made available to parents or carers on request.

Voluntary Contributions

The school may ask parents or carers for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or towards activities. For example, contributions towards school fund, fund raising, and costs associated with school enrichment visits.

School Enrichment Visits

When organising school visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents and carers to contribute towards the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If the school does not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, then we may cancel the enrichment activity. No pupil will be left out because a voluntary contribution has not been received. However, if there are insufficient contributions, the school may be left with no choice but to cancel the visit. The class termly newsletter states what visits are planned for the term. The class teacher then sends a letter to parents / carers prior to each visit via the SIMs Parent App (see Appendix A for example letter), informing parents / carers of the purpose of visit and associated costs. Payments can then be made via Schoolcomms. All voluntary contributions are non-refundable, however if the school or the venue cancels the visit then contributions will be refunded to parents.

Governors have agreed to subsidise some visits at their discretion. Parents and carers have a right to know how each activity is funded, and the school provides this information on request.

School Enrichment Visitors to school

Eastfield Primary School organises many visitors into school which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of all the children e.g. theatre productions, specialist workshops, authors / storytellers etc. Governors have agreed to subsidise these visitors into school as part of the children's entitlement. School keep a record of voluntary contributions and consent forms for audit purposes (income / expenditure to school budget).

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Residential Visits and Overnight stays

Where a school activity involves pupils staying nights away from home, there will be a charge for board and lodging. Parents or carers who are in receipt of the following support payments are entitled to claim remission from the payment of the board and lodging charge: -

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit
(provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

All other costs involved in residential visits are asked for as voluntary contributions. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through these voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled, and that aspect of the curriculum would have to be covered in other ways. School keep a record of voluntary contributions and consent forms for audit purposes (income / expenditure to school budget).

Optional Extras

Out of hours activities and clubs are classed as Optional Extras.

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

Activities Outside of School Hours

The full cost to each pupil of all approved activities deemed to be optional extras taking place outside school hours.

Eastfield Primary School currently offers pupils sporting activities and music clubs as optional extras. These activities are currently paid for by the school.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club at Eastfield Primary School provides a welcoming environment where children can enjoy a healthy breakfast before the start of the school day.

Please refer to the schools Breakfast Club Policy for further details.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children in KS2. 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 and we ask parents or carers for written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

Charging for School Equipment

No charge will be made for materials, books or equipment needed for lessons. The only exception to this is where wilful damage or loss of the equipment by the child has taken place. A contribution towards the cost of replacement shall be requested.

School Meals

The school has adopted the standard Local Authority charging policy for school meals. We also follow the Local Authority Universal Free School Meals initiative from September 2014 where all infant pupils are able to receive a free school meal. We do ask families who are eligible for free school meals to still apply for them as the premium attached to this benefit comes in to school and helps provide children with additional benefits such as free milk, extra help in lessons, reduced costs for some school enrichment visits, sports coaching, pastoral/welfare support etc. The previously mentioned criteria will be used to assess entitlement.

The charge for school meals is £2.50 per day, £12.50 per week, and meals are ordered daily.

School meals must be paid for in advance on a Monday morning. We are a cashless school and payments must be made via Schoolcomms. All new parents will receive account set up information from the school office. All payments received are recorded and all meals should be paid for promptly with any outstanding balances paid off by the end of the week. Any payments made in advance will be carried forward if a child does not have a meal.

Free School Meals

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they're in a government-funded school and in;

- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 2

At the end of each week an arrears report is produced detailing any monies owed. Parents then receive a text and reminder letter from the school office notifying parents they owe dinner money. If no payments are received, a 2nd reminder letter is sent out. Parents/guardians will also receive text message and telephone call. If monies are still outstanding, a 3rd letter is sent informing parents/guardians that the case has been passed on to the Board of Governors for consideration. A final letter will then be sent informing parents that a referral has been made to a Debt Collection Agency (Wolverhampton City Council).

Uniform

As a school we have tried to ensure that our school uniform is as accessible and fair as possible.

We do not insist that any specific stockist is used and encourage parents to use local supermarkets where possible.

We do sell sweatshirts, t shirts and cardigans with the school's logo on, however there is no insistence on children wearing these.

In order to purchase items of school uniform with our school logo on we require parents to sign up to and use Schoolcomms. Any issues with Schoolcomms then please contact the school office on 01902 558604 or office@eastfieldpri.co.uk. Please log on to Schoolcomms for prices.

School uniform is also available online from [Lads & Lasses Schoolwear | School & Work Uniforms | Shop Online \(ladsandlassesschoolwear.co.uk\)](https://ladsandlassesschoolwear.co.uk)

Paying for Information

Where parents or members of the public request copies of information under either the Data Protection Act or the Freedom of Information Act, the Governors can make a charge for providing copies of information.

Monitoring & Review

The procedures in this policy will be monitored in the light of any new information and guidance which becomes available.

APPENDIX A – DELETE AND AMEND AS NEEDED

Eastfield Primary School
Colliery Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 2QY
Phone: (01902) 558604
Email: eastfieldprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Hay

Date

Dear Parents / Guardians,

As part of our class theme on 'XXXXXXXX' we have planned an enrichment activity.

- XXXXXX on date

This activity will be really exciting and will enhance your child's understanding of our class theme.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £XX (non-refundable) for the visits. The final date for the contribution is date. If school does not receive enough voluntary contributions then the enrichment activities may have to be cancelled.

The total cost to school for this enrichment activity (including transport) is £XXX (this is £XX per child) and the voluntary contribution we are asking for is £XX per child (this means that school have subsidised the enrichment activity by £XX per child).

Your child will be travelling by coach for this visit. We will be leaving school at approx. Xam and returning at Xpm.

Your child will need to wear school uniform including shoes and they will need to bring a waterproof coat.

The school kitchen will provide a packed lunch for your child.

Please pay the voluntary contribution of £XX on Schoolcomms by date.

If you need any assistance using Schoolcomms please contact our school office on tel. 01902 558604 or office@eastfieldpri.co.uk

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Hay
Head Teacher