



The Federation of Riders Schools

Riders Infant and Junior Schools

Kingsclere Avenue, Leigh Park, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 4RY

Executive Headteacher: Ms Lisa Dunning

Heads of Schools: Mrs Sue Holdway and Mrs Kati Dawkins

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Charging & Remissions Policy for 2019

Reviewed by:	FGB, May 2019	Approved by:	Governing Body
Implementation:	Immediate	Review:	June 2020

Aim:

To inform parent/carers/staff of the schools' principles of charging and remissions in line with Hampshire's policy and following the basic principle that education during school hours* should be free.

Responsibilities:

Governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, are responsible for the implementation of the policy and the determination of individual cases arising from the implementation.

Activities during the school day:

All activities relating to the National Curriculum and religious education are free of charge.

Voluntary contributions for activities:

Voluntary contributions may be invited from parent/carers for day trips and enrichment activities held during the school day which involve additional costs. All contributions are voluntary and there is no limit to what they choose to pay. No child will be excluded because their parent/carer is unwilling or unable to pay and will be given an equal chance to go on the activity. The school reserves the right to cancel the activity if sufficient voluntary contributions are not received; in this case all monies received will be returned to parents.

The fundamental principle of charging for school activities is that charges cannot exceed the cost and Governors recognise the school cannot make a profit or subsidise some pupils by "over charging" others. Contributions are based on the cost of the trip divided by the total number of children participating and not the number likely to pay. The school are committed whenever possible to subsidise trips by paying for the transport.

If a child is unable to participate in the activity and upon request, voluntary contributions may be reimbursed. This reimbursement will be limited to only those charges the school is able to reclaim.

Activities outside of school hours:

A charge may be made for activities.

Residential trips:

Residentials are classified as being within school hours if the number of school sessions missed by the pupils is at least 50% of the number of half days spent on the trip. The Year 4 residential and the Year 6 residential trip are subsidised as the school cover the cost of travel.

Federation Website: www.ridersschools.co.uk

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Board and lodging

We will charge pupils the full cost of board and lodging on residentials whether it is classified as taking place within or outside school hours.

Activities on residential

If the residential is classified as being within school hours no charge can legally be made for the educational activities provided. If the residential is classified as being outside school hours, a charge will be made for the educational activities provided.

Please note that for those families with existing dinner money debts (over £11.50), or with any historic debts (relating to previous family dinner debts or residential trips), we will be unable to offer a place on the trip. In order to secure a place on the trip you will therefore be required to make full payment of any outstanding debt before a place can be confirmed and a payment plan arranged.

Damaged or lost school property:

Parent/carers may be asked to make a contribution towards replacing damaged or lost school property (includes school fabric, furniture and resources) caused wilfully or negligently by their child.

School Lunches:

Lunches should be paid for in advance. Any lunches not actually ordered to the Kitchen (due to absences or trips), will roll forward to be taken at a later date.

In order to prevent arrears of dinner money from accumulating to a point beyond parents' means to settle (and to be mindful of our responsibility as a 'responsible lender'), we will only allow one week of arrears (£11.50). After this time the debt must be paid in full and a packed lunch provided by parents as no further lunches will be provided until full payment of the debt is received. If parents/carers then send the child in to school without a packed lunch, they will be contacted to arrange for food to be provided (which could include going home for lunch).

Free School Meals are available to children whose parents/guardians are in receipt of benefits. There is an online service where you can check your own eligibility for free school meals. This can be accessed through the school website (Useful Links page) or <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>. If you require assistance in checking eligibility the school office will be happy to help.

Breakfast Club:

Our Breakfast Club is subsidised by school funds. In order to prevent arrears accumulating to a point beyond parents' means to settle, we will only allow one week of arrears (£6.50). After this time the debt must be paid in full and pupils will not be able to attend the Breakfast Club sessions until full payment of the debt is received.

School Clubs:

The school provides a wide variety of before and after school clubs which are all subsidised and therefore fully paid for by the school funds, those families with existing dinner money debts (over £11.50), or with any historic debts (relating to previous family dinner debts or other debts), we will be unable to offer a place on the clubs. In order to secure a place on the club you will therefore be required to make full payment of any outstanding debt before a place can be confirmed.

Debt Management:

The school has no facility to carry debts. If debts are incurred, then the school has to use its budget to pay for them. This means that money, which should be spent on children's education, is used to pay for debts incurred by parents/carers not paying.

Individuals or organisations that have previously defaulted on payments to the school will not be allowed further credit facilities. Where payments are regularly or consistently paid outside of the terms of supply, credit facilities will be withdrawn; please note that this includes credit for school dinners and residential trip payments.

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The school will work closely with parents in working out a form of payment plan to help resolve any arrears. However, where no attempt is made to clear the debt this may be passed to either Hampshire County Council Debt Management Service or the Small Claims Court.

** School hours are: Infants – morning 9.00am – 12.00noon, afternoon 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Juniors – morning 8.50am-12.15pm, afternoon 1.00pm – 3.00pm.*