



CHARGING POLICY

Formally adopted by the Governing Body of:	Redcastle Family School
On:	1-09-2023
Chair of Governors:	Mrs M Eade <i>M.E. Eade</i>
Last updated:	August 2024
Review date:	August 2025

Charging Policies

Charging Policy

Charges for School Activities

Legislation allows schools to charge for certain activities which take place both inside and outside school hours. Norfolk County Council has adopted a policy, which it recommends to governors, but it is for governors of schools to decide whether or not to follow the policy. The School's charging policy must be described in its prospectus, which can be obtained from the school. It is also a requirement that the School's charging policy is provided on its' website. If your son or daughter's school governors follow the County Council's charging policy, these are the activities and materials for which you will be charged:

Music tuition

Vocal or Instrumental tuition, which is not part of the syllabus for an approved public examination, part of the National Curriculum or is provided under the first access to the key stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme.

Charges may be made for tuition provided individually or to groups of any size, provided the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent. No charge may be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by the local authority.

Ingredients and materials

Ingredients and materials for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance that they wish to receive the finished articles.

Travel: Schools **cannot** charge for:

- Transporting registered pupils to or from school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where arrangements have been made for pupils to be educated.
- Transport enabling a pupil to meet an examination requirement where prepared for that examination at the school.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

Board and lodging

Board and lodging will be charged in all cases where a school activity involves pupils in nights away from home. The charge must not exceed the actual cost.

Activities outside school hours

A charge can be made for all non-residential activities, which take place wholly, or more than 50% outside school hours, where the child's participation has been agreed in advance by the parents. The charge can include the cost of travel, entrance fees, insurance, books, equipment and any staff (teaching or non-teaching) engaged specifically for the activity.

Residential trips - a residential trip is deemed to take place outside school hours if the number of 'missed' school sessions is less than 50% of the number of half days taken up by the trip.

For example, pupils are away from noon on Wednesday to 9pm on Sunday. This counts as 9 half days including 5 school sessions, so the visit is deemed to have taken place during school hours.

Schools **cannot** charge for:

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours.
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a public examination the pupil is being prepared for at the school or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

Schools can ask parents for voluntary contributions towards the cost of:

- Any activity taking place during school hours
- School Equipment
- General School Funds

Children of parents unwilling or unable to contribute may not be discriminated against. If insufficient voluntary contributions are received, with no alternative method to make up the shortfall, the activity should be cancelled. It is advisable to make parents aware from the outset of the possible cancellation of an activity if insufficient voluntary contributions are received.

Public Examinations - charges are made for the entry of a pupil for a prescribed examination for which he/she has not been prepared by the school, or where the pupil entered for examinations in the same subject with two examination boards.

Remission of charges - only parents who are in receipt of Universal Credit, Income Support, Working Families' Credit, Disabled Person's Tax Credit or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance are eligible for remission of charges. Remission of charges only applies to board and lodgings charges, which are levied directly by the LA or the school and where they relate to activities, deemed to take place wholly or partly in school hours.

Remission will not apply to such charges when they relate to activities wholly outside school hours, except if the activity is prescribed in a syllabus for a public examination, if it is prescribed by the National Curriculum or fulfils duties relating to Religious Education.

Parents who have difficulty meeting any charges should discuss the matter in confidence with the Headteacher.

Refunds

Refunds will only be offered in exceptional circumstances, e.g. if a school visit is cancelled and the venue and transport provider make no charge, or if the surplus collected for an activity exceeds the cost of that activity by an amount pre-determined by the governing board which is £5 per pupil.

Early Education and Childcare

Government funding is intended to cover the cost to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality, flexible childcare only. It is not intended to cover the cost of meals, consumables, additional hours or additional services.

The following fees apply when families claim funded entitlement as part of a childcare arrangement.

Additional Hours

Additional hours, not funded by the local authority, will be charged at the current hourly rate.

As from September 2025, the current hourly rate will increase to £5.00/hour; this equates to £15.00 per day (3 additional hours per day) or £75.00 per week (15 additional hours per week) – term time only.

Additional hours will be charged for unless specific arrangements have been agreed, and whilst a childcare contract remains in place.

The invoice will be issued through School Money, and itemised to provide clear and transparent information concerning the charges as agreed in the childcare contract. It will allow parents/carers to see that the entitlement is received completely free of charge and understand additional fees that have been applied.

Additional Services

- Charges for additional services, such as trips, will be agreed in advance with families and donations will be via School Money.
- Meals are booked and paid for in advance (not on the day required) via School Money, at a cost of £2.40/day; juice is available for an additional £0.50/day. Families are able to supply their own cold packed lunches as an alternative.
- Snacks of milk and fruit are provided free of charge during the day.
- Consumables are not currently charged for.

If you are unable to pay these charges, please speak with the Office staff to discuss the options available to you.

The alternative options include:

- The possibility of waiving, or reducing costs, depending on the circumstances;
- Families to supply their own cold packed lunch.

A deposit/registration fee is not currently charged to secure your child's place at our Nursery.

Families wishing to terminate their childcare contract must provide 4 weeks' notice in writing to the School Office. Any funding entitlement claimed beyond the notice period is transferrable to your new childcare provider, via the local authority, where the funding criteria is met. Where a child leaves the setting before the end of the agreed

notice period, we will seek authorisation from the local authority to claim any funding applicable to your entitlement up to the end of the notice period, together with any additional hour fees which formed part of your childcare arrangement that remain outstanding.

Our additional hour fees are reviewed annually and Families will be given at least 6 weeks' notice in writing to inform them of any change, and given the opportunity to discuss their options with the School Office.

Where a time lapse has occurred between the point of enquiry, and their child's start date, families should check that the information shared about funding and fees remains current so that any applicable charges can be checked / finalised before the childcare arrangement is formalised.

The funded entitlements will be delivered consistently so that all children accessing any of them will receive the same quality and access to provision, regardless of whether families opt to pay for optional hours, services, meals or consumables.

The entitlement place is offered free. Parents will not be charged a "top-up" fee to recoup the difference between the amount received from the Local Authority and the current hourly rate.

Useful Links:

Learning Outside the Classroom guidance:

<http://www.lotc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/GCharging-Policy-Updated-PDF-1APR09.pdf>

Latest DfE guidelines:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charging-for-school-activities>

