



Be . Build . Become

'Encourage one another and build each other up.' Thessalonians 5:11

Charging and Remissions Policy

Bloxham Church of England Primary School

Updated: January 2026

Introduction

Bloxham Church of England Primary School believes that all pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular), independent of their parents' financial means. This policy explains how the school manages charging and remissions in order to provide a broad, balanced and inclusive educational experience.

Legislative Framework

This policy is informed by the Education Act 1996 (Sections 449–462), the Department for Education guidance 'Charging for School Activities' (2018), the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998. The policy is reviewed regularly to ensure continued compliance.

Voluntary Contributions

The school may invite parents and carers to make voluntary contributions to support educational visits and enrichment activities. All such contributions are voluntary. Pupils will not be treated differently or excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to contribute.

Where an activity cannot proceed without voluntary contributions, parents will be informed in advance. If insufficient contributions are received, the activity may be cancelled.

Activities for Which No Charge Is Made

- Education provided during school hours, including materials and equipment.
- Education provided outside school hours where it forms part of the National Curriculum or Religious Education.
- Musical tuition required as part of the National Curriculum.
- Entry for prescribed public examinations where pupils have been prepared at the school.
- Educational visits during school hours.
- Transport and supply cover linked to educational visits.

Activities for Which Charges May Be Made

Charges may be made for optional extras, including activities outside school hours and board and lodging on residential visits. Charges will not exceed the actual cost per pupil and parental agreement will be obtained in advance.

Residential Visits

Residential visits are deemed to take place during school time where 50% or more of sessions occur during school hours. In such cases, charges may only be made for board and lodging. Where visits take place mainly outside school time, charges may be made for the full cost, except for curriculum elements.

Peripatetic Music Tuition

Peripatetic music tuition is arranged privately between families and providers. The school facilitates access to its premises but does not manage or charge for lessons, all charges are made directly to and from peripatetic staff, who are not employees of the school. Participation is entirely optional and non-participation does not disadvantage pupils.

Equality and Inclusion

Charging arrangements will not discriminate, directly or indirectly, against pupils with disabilities or special educational needs, in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Participation in optional activities is voluntary and non-participation will not disadvantage pupils.

Remissions

The Governing Body may grant remission of charges where parents are in receipt of benefits that qualify their child for free school meals, or in cases of temporary financial hardship. Requests are handled sensitively and confidentially.

Additional Considerations

- Visits will be published in advance where possible.
- Payment by instalments will be offered where appropriate.
- The school will avoid 'first pay, first served' allocation where this may disadvantage families.

Appendix A: Legislative Compliance Cross-Check

Requirement	Legislation / Guidance	How This Policy Complies
Charging for activities	Education Act 1996	Defines when charges can and cannot be made.
Voluntary contributions	DfE Guidance (2018)	States contributions are voluntary.
Residential visits	Education Act 1996	Applies the 50% rule correctly.
Remissions	DfE Guidance	Links remission to FSM eligibility.
Equality and SEND	Equality Act 2010	Includes explicit non-discrimination statement.

Appendix B: Summary of Changes and Rationale (January 2026 Update)

This appendix outlines the key changes made to the Charging and Remissions Policy as part of the January 2026 review and explains the rationale for each update, supporting governor oversight and statutory compliance assurance.

Area of Policy	Previous Position	Updated Position	Reason for Change
Legislative references	Education Act only	Full statutory framework added	Ensures compliance
Remissions threshold	Fixed income amount	FSM-linked eligibility	Future-proofing
SEND & Equality	Implicit	Explicitly stated	Meets Equality Act expectations
Peripatetic tuition	Private but unclear	Optional and non-disadvantaging	Clarity and fairness