

Stephen Hawking School

November 2018

Charging and Remissions Policy

1 Introduction

Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England.

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum or Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

2 Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution or the full contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we will allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how the cost of each trip is calculated. The school will provide this information on request.

3 Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly during school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum or Early Years Foundations Stage Curriculum, we will not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. Parents who receive income based state benefits may be exempt from payment.

4 Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

There may be a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. Parents who receive income based state benefits may be exempt from payment.

5 Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity.

6 Out of School Hours Activities

The school, in conjunction with Whoosh! – The Stephen Hawking School Trust, will aim to provide out of school hours learning activities to support children's wider interests and to help working parents. Currently, the school and Whoosh! asks parents for a contribution of £5 per day for the summer and Easter schemes to cover the costs of lunches, snacks etc. As these activities take place outside of the normal school term children are not entitled to free school meals. Both organisations retain the right to make further charges should other sources of funding become unavailable. If too few children sign up for an activity the activity is likely to be cancelled.

7 Hardship Fund

The school will work in partnership with Whoosh! to support activities both during school hours and after school. This will hopefully enable the school to subsidise children so that they can access activities which their families cannot otherwise afford. The fundraising will be managed by Whoosh! which as a charity is subject to charity law. Decisions about who will be subsidised will be made by the Trustees of Whoosh! in conjunction with the Headteacher.