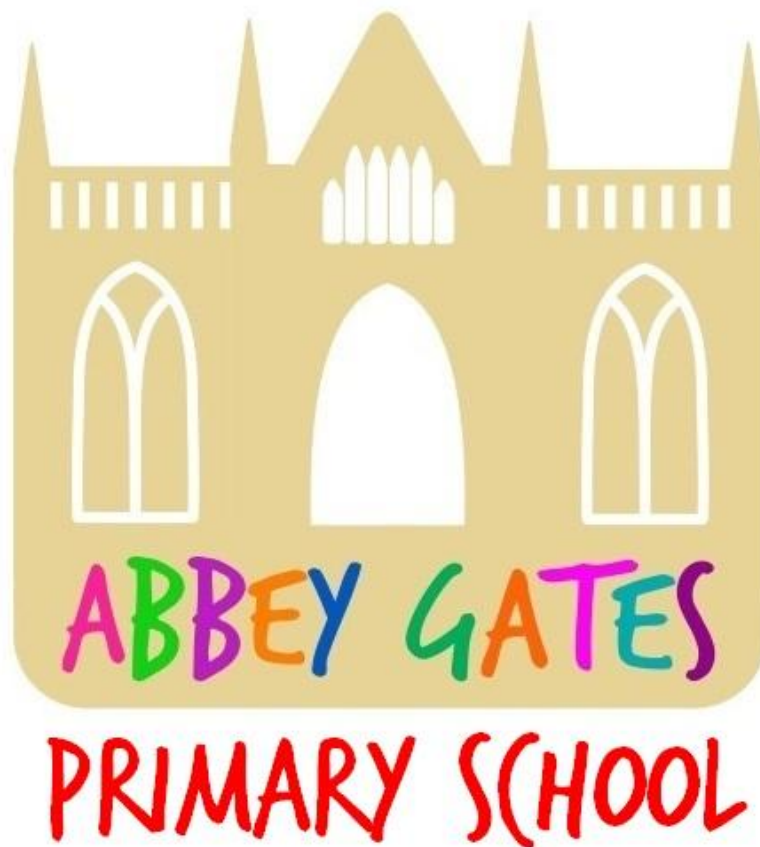




Charging and Remissions Policy



Review – May 2027

Charging and Remissions Policy

Abbey Gates Primary School has adopted the Nottinghamshire Local Education Authority Charging and Remissions Policy.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY Charging and Remissions Policy

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to the principle of free education at the schools it maintains and believes that central to this principle is an entitlement curriculum to which all pupils should have free access as of right. Nottinghamshire County Council schools are resourced accordingly. It is not expected therefore that schools will charge for activities which have been resourced through their budgets.
2. The County Council recognises the valuable contribution schools can make to the range of educational experiences offered to their pupils by organising a range of visits and other non-classroom based activities, either inside or outside school hours. The County Council accepts that in these circumstances it may be necessary for a school to seek financial contributions from parents if the expenses of a particular activity cannot wholly be contained from within the funds normally available to the school.
3. In arranging activities for which a voluntary parental contribution may be sought, the County Council expects each school to bear in mind whether the requested contribution is reasonable and within the scope of the majority of parents of pupils at the school.
4. The County Council expects schools to operate within the law and not charge for those activities for which, legally, charges cannot be made. Within these legal constraints, however, the County Council recognises that each school governing body is responsible for its own charging and remissions policy. The County Council would wish to encourage school governing bodies, in determining their policies in this respect, to be mindful of the financial circumstances of pupils and their parents. The County Council would also wish to remind school governing bodies that pupils may be assisted, at the governors' discretion, from the school's budget or other funds at their disposal and that pupils must not be excluded from any school activity that extends or enriches the curriculum for their class or group because they have not made a contribution to the cost.

CHARGING POLICY

General position

In recognition of its commitment to free education, Nottinghamshire County Council does not normally charge pupils or parents for any activity which it directly organises, except in the circumstances described in this document.

School governing body responsibilities

The responsibility for charging for other school activities, for which charges are permitted under the Education Act 1996, rests with each individual school governing body, although the County Council expects that in determining their charging policies school governors will be mindful of the general principles set out in this document.

Residential activities held during school hours

Charges may be made at the discretion of the County Council for the board and lodging element of any residential activities which take place during school hours. Any such charge will be calculated by reference to the actual cost of providing board and lodging for each pupil; no other costs will be covered by the charge. Any remission arrangements for activities of this type will be at the discretion of the Director of Children and Young People's Services. No pupil will be excluded from any of the activities due to an inability to pay.

Activities held outside school hours

Charges may be made at the discretion of the Council for these activities. Any such charge will not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating in the activity. The cost of other pupils participating in the activity will not be included in the charge. The charge may however include an appropriate element for the following, as appropriate:

- the pupil's travel costs;
- the pupil's board and lodging costs;
- non-teaching staff costs;
- materials, instruments and other equipment;
- entrance fees to places of interest;
- insurance costs;
- the expenses only of any participating teachers engaged on a separate contract for services to provide the activity.

Any remission arrangements for such activities will be at the discretion of the Director of Children and Young People's Services

Voluntary Contributions

The restrictions on charging for activities do not in any way prohibit a school from seeking voluntary contributions from parents for the benefit of the school or towards any school activities. Any such contributions must, however, be genuinely voluntary. It will be made clear to parents if contributions are requested that:-

- there is no obligation to contribute: and
- that pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have contributed.

If an activity cannot take place without voluntary contributions, this should be made clear to parents. An initial letter to parents in those circumstances would explain the nature of the proposed activity and its educational value. The letter should indicate the contribution per pupil which would be required if the activity were to take place. It should also emphasise that there would be no obligation to contribute and that no pupil would be excluded from the activity because his or her parents were unwilling or unable to contribute. However the letter should make it clear that the activity would not take place if insufficient parents were able to support it.

REMISSION POLICY

The Council has determined the following policies which partly or wholly remit certain charges which may be payable by pupils and their parents. The remission policy set out below relates to pupils attending schools maintained by Nottinghamshire County Council and in certain cases is only available to those pupils who actually live in Nottinghamshire.

Sports clothing

The Council's school clothing assistance scheme provides for assistance to be given towards the cost of a pupil's clothing, including sports clothing, where the pupil's parents are eligible for certain benefits. Only pupils who live in Nottinghamshire are entitled to assistance under this scheme.

Environmental education

The Council provides a range of day and residential environmental education centres for pupils attending Nottinghamshire Nottinghamshire County Council schools. Schools are charged a proportion of the running costs for the centres. These charges are, however, partially remitted, in the case of visits which take place mainly during school hours, to reflect the number of pupils attending who are eligible for free school meals.

Board and lodging charges for residential trips

Any charges for board and lodging for a residential trip, within the terms of the schemes outlined above, will be fully remitted either by the Council or the school governing body, depending upon who funds the visit, provided that the activity:

(i) takes place during school hours, OR

(ii) forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination or fulfils statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or religious education, irrespective of whether the activity takes place within or outside school hours

And the parents are in receipt of:

- Income-Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and has an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit