

Oatlands School



Charging & Remissions Policy

Date of last review: Spring 2024

Date of next review: Spring 2026

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies used for charging parents at Oatlands School.

All activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum will be provided free of charge to our pupils. It is our aim to provide a broad range of appropriate activities to enrich our curriculum and to extend our pupils' learning and experiences.

There is however, no Local Authority funding for extra activities and we are obliged to ask for voluntary contributions from parents and carers as follows:

Educational Visits

The cost of any visits normally includes travel, entry fees and an amount to cover any costs for adults accompanying the visit. In advance of such trips, information is sent to parents and carers indicating the cost per child and inviting a contribution from them. On some occasions we may request that parents take & collect their children from the place of the visit.

No child would be excluded from the visit as a result of non-payment by their parent or carer. However, it is also pointed out that should the level of contributions not cover the cost of the visit, it is probable that it would be cancelled. Refunds will not be given if a child is absent from the event and the contribution has already been made.

Visiting Groups/Performers

Any cost normally relates to the fees charged by the visiting group or performer. These costs will sometimes be met from the School Fund but if this is not possible the cost will be divided by the number of children involved in the event. In advance of the event, parents and carers are invited to contribute towards the cost. No child would be excluded from the event as a result of non-payment by their parent or carer. Refunds will not be given if a child is absent from the event and the contribution has already been made.

School Meals

All children at Oatlands School are entitled to a school meal without any payment as government funding is received within the school budget. The supervision of children during the lunch period is also funded from the school budget at no extra cost to parents or carers.

Home Reading Books (Book Share)

Children are permitted to take home books to read and are expected to take good care of them. Parents and carers are expected to replace any lost or damaged books or to contribute to their replacement.

Cookery

It is school policy for all children to have the opportunity to take part in cooking activities. Some of the ingredients are funded by the PTA but we may ask parents and carers to make a small contribution for any necessary fresh items.

Sponsored/PTA events

At times there will be sponsored or PTA organised events (eg sponsored bounce or Mother's Day Market) taking place during the school day. On these occasions parents and carers will be contacted in advance of the event and invited to sponsor their child or contribute towards the event. No child would be excluded from the event as a result of non-payment by their parent or carer. Refunds will not be given if a child is absent from the event and the contribution has already been made.

Instrumental Tuition

Any instrumental tuition eg Recorder is not an essential part of the National Curriculum and may therefore be charged for. We are currently able to provide the tuition free of charge but parents and carers will be asked to provide the instrument or pay in full for the cost of the instrument purchased by the school on their behalf. Parents and carers will be contacted prior to the start of the lessons to enable them to make the necessary purchase. No child will be excluded from the tuition if an instrument cannot be provided.

Christmas Events

Concerts/Plays

These events are considered an enriching aspect of our children's education, extending across a range of curriculum areas. No charge is made to parents and carers to attend these events although a collection may be made in aid of a predetermined charity.

Christmas Parties/Gifts

Contributions are not expected from parents or carers. Currently the cost of the Christmas parties and gifts for the children is covered by the School Fund.

OSCAR Club

The Oatlands School Care and Recreation Club (OSCAR) provide a care provision to our pupils before and after the school day and this will be charged for. The charges associated with this care are published in the OSCAR terms and conditions.

After School Clubs

Most optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, such as after school clubs will be charged for. Most of the after-school clubs at Oatlands School are organised by outside providers and payment is arranged directly with them. There may be some clubs which are directly provided by the school which may be free of charge. Information on all of the after-school clubs available, with details of cost, will be provided to parents and carers, on a termly basis, ahead of the start date of the clubs.

Calculating charges

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating.

There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who cannot. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising. Parents who would qualify for support are those who meet the free school meal eligibility criteria.

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.