

**Harrington Hill Primary School**

 **Address: Mount Pleasant Lane, London E5 9JG | Telephone: 0208 806 7275**

**Email: admin@harringtonhill.hackney.sch.uk | Website: www.harringtonhill.hackney.sch.uk**

## **CHARGING POLICY**

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| **Reviewed** | **September 2020** |
| **Next Review Date** | **September 2021** |
| **Adopted** | **25/09/2020** |

**Harrington Hill Primary School**

**CHARGING POLICY**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure clarity regarding those services for which the school may make a charge. The policy has been informed by the LA policy and Department for Education (DfE) guidance and agreed by the Governing Body.

1. **AIMS**

The aims of this policy are to explain:

* The different sources from which the school may generate income aside from funds officially delegated by the local authority and government, donated funds from charities and funding bids; and
* The collection and administrative procedures, including credit control and debt recovery.
1. **DEFINITION**

Income may be generated subject to the provision of the Education Act 1996. No charge may be made for admitting pupils to maintained state schools. During the school day all activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum plus religious education are provided free of charge. This excludes charges made for teaching an individual pupil or groups of pupils to play a musical instrument. Unless the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), the school will make a charge.

The school day is defined as:

* Nursery: 08.45 -11.45; 12.45–15.30
* Reception: 08.45 –15.30
* KS1: 08.45 - 15.30
* KS2: 09.00 – 15.45
1. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The head teacher must ensure that staff are familiar with and correctly apply the policy and it’s Annex: Charging Policy Procedures (Guidance on payment). The Leadership Committee of the Governing Body must review the policy annually and it’s Annex more frequently if required.

1. **SCHOOL VISITS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

We believe that the curriculum is enriched by educational visits and other activities such as visiting drama groups or storytellers and these come with a cost to the school. To cover the costs, the head teacher and governing body of Harrington Hill Primary School ask for parental contribution towards these extra school activities.

In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. However if insufficient funds are available it may be necessary to curtail or cancel activities.

1. **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY**

Harrington Hill aims to provide a wide range of activities during the school day, the external activities such as After School Clubs are currently out sourced to a third party company.

**SCHOOL JOURNEY / RESIDENTIAL TRIPS**

Charges are made for board and lodging during residential school trips. The cost must not exceed the actual cost of the provision. As with optional activities above, parents are asked to pay in advance of the journey/trip.

1. **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS**

A charge is made for instrumental music tuition unless the tuition forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the school is preparing the child to sit, or is part of the National Curriculum or the syllabus for religious education, in which case there will be no charge.

As a child progresses in the learning of their instrument they may be put forward for a Music Board examination. Parents will be advised of the cost of the examination and the charge they will be asked to pay.

1. **CALCULATING CHARGES**

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside the school day, they are 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 or will not. Support for cases of hardship will come through fundraising and subsidies. Parents who usually qualify for support are those in receipt of eligible benefits.

1. **SCHOOL DINNER SALES**

Payments for school dinners should be made in advance. The school dinner accounts are managed daily and reconciled weekly. The current cost of school dinners is £2.20 per day or £11.00 per week. Parents are asked to make payments according to the guidelines currently in force. Should any account be outstanding by more than £40.00 the school will request that you provide your child with a packed lunch until this debt is cleared.

Parents are asked to make a commitment to their child having school dinners for at least a half term.

With our vision to become a cashless school, payments are only accepted online only.

1. Payments made via our online system may take up to 6 hours to process and update on our live system.

Free school meals: The school provides free school meals to pupils qualifying for these, in accordance with current legislation. We endeavour to ensure that as many eligible families as possible apply.

1. **DEBT COLLECTION**

Weekly reminder letters of outstanding debts for school dinners are sent to parents. If payment is not forthcoming the school endeavours to recover the debt with follow-up phone calls. If an account remains unpaid after these reminders, further action may be required and the school may refer the debt to be recovered by the London Borough of Hackney.