

New Marston Primary School
Charging and remissions
Part B

At New Marston Primary School we want to provide a wide range of experiences which add excitement and enjoyment to children's learning and personal development and which deepen their knowledge being taught across the curriculum. All our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school visits, curricular and extracurricular activities.

Many of these activities have a cost associated with them and, unfortunately, cannot be provided unless we ask parents for voluntary contributions and, in some cases, make a charge. But there are some strict rules we have to abide by. Our charging policy, which has been agreed by governors, sets out what we will charge for, how we will try to make it manageable for parents and how we will help parents with limited incomes.

Method

Voluntary contributions

We cannot charge for activities which are part of the normal school day or part of the National Curriculum but we can ask for voluntary contributions.

Examples of circumstances in which we might ask for voluntary contributions include:

- Transport to swimming
- Transport on trips
- Admission charges

At New Marston:

- We will tell you at the outset if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions.
- We shall give as much notice as possible of any activities which will require voluntary contributions. We also send a trip overview with approximate costings for the year during Term 1.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the school need to ask for voluntary contributions?

We want to offer a wide range of activities to broaden your child's experience but we can't afford to do everything we would wish without help from parents.

What happens if I am unwilling to pay?

Your contribution is voluntary. Your child will not be excluded from the activity.

However, if the school does not receive enough voluntary contributions we may have to cancel the activity.

What happens if I am unable to pay?

Parents in certain financial circumstances will not be expected to make voluntary contributions (see section: Special Financial Arrangements).

Will my voluntary contribution pay for people who have not paid?

No. The amount we ask in voluntary contribution must not exceed the actual cost of the activity per pupil.

Optional Extras

We can charge for any materials, books, instruments or equipment if you wish your child to own them. This means that we can make a charge for:

- Materials used in technology if your child is expecting to bring the finished product home
- Cookery ingredients if your child will bring the result home
- Trips which are not part of the school curriculum and outside the school day e.g. some theatre trips, elective activities, football matches, music concerts, residential.
- After school club
- Music tuition if it is not required as part of the National Curriculum and is provided for an individual pupil or for groups of up to four pupils.

We promise that:

- The charge will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra.
- We will obtain your agreement before we provide the optional extra.

Residential Visits

We believe that every child has an entitlement to a residential visit during their time at New Marston Primary School. This will be built into the school curriculum in years 2, 4 and 6.

We will request payment for transport and also board and lodging. The charge will not exceed the actual cost.

We will help you to plan for these costs by:

- Issuing a calendar of visits/activities in September to ensure that you have as much notice as possible with an estimate of cost to allow you to budget;
- Having clear procedures to enable you to pay by instalments.

Special Financial Arrangements

Families who are in receipt of the Pupil premium funding will be supported with 50% of the cost for:

- Board and lodging on residential visits

In addition, reduced rates may be negotiated for:

- Extra-curricular activities
 - School trips

The pupil premium funding can be used for a range of things as detailed in the Pupil premium strategy. For example, a child receiving funded extra curricular clubs or paid therapeutic support might be requested to pay for trips on a payment plan. This is discussed with parents/carers when additional resources are deployed. In most cases, PP pupils are supported for 50% of the cost of trips.

We can provide:

- Technology materials
- Cooking materials
- Transport to out of school activities
- Admission fees for school trips

We will also seek a bursary for residentials to meet the full cost.

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