



THE BLUE SCHOOL

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

*Whatever you do in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:17

Policy: Charges and Remissions

Author: Headteacher

Approved: Spring 2026

Next Review: Spring 2028

CHARGES POLICY

See also *The Blue School Clubs, Visitors and Extra Curricular Activities policy*.

The Blue School is guided by DfE's advice: [Charging for school activities - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charging-for-school-activities).

In accordance with the Education Act 1996 and with sections 106-111 and 117-118 of the Education Reform Act 1988, the Governors of The Blue School hereby clarify their policy on charging for school activities.

1. **Parental Giving** The school operates a parental giving scheme. This is in accordance with the custom and practice which operates nationally throughout the voluntary aided (VA) sector. Contributions to this scheme are entirely voluntary and all information connected with this scheme is completely confidential. The scheme is administered so that there is complete separation of the scheme from the school's admissions arrangements and process.
2. **Milk** Parents can register and pay for school milk via www.coolmilk.com.
3. **Instrumental Music Tuition** This applies to children receiving instrumental tuition from peripatetic teachers. The Governors have elected to participate in the London Borough of Hounslow (the local education authority)'s Music Service "agency" scheme for such tuition and accordingly charges will be levied both for tuition time and the cost of hire/purchase of instruments and books. The school also employs free-lance music teachers for instrumental tuition which is not available via HMS. The charging structure is the same. Parents indicate that they are requesting this additional provision by applying for places. This provision is above and beyond the main music curriculum which is provided to all children.
4. **Educational visits** From time to time the school organises visits to museums, theatres, farms or other places of interest. These visits take place during school time and charges levied are voluntary. The school's governors will continue the practice of requesting voluntary contributions for such visits, while ensuring that all children concerned actually participate, whether or not a contribution has been made. However, if the numbers contributing voluntarily decline to a level where insufficient funds are raised for such a visit, the activity will be cancelled.
5. **Incidentals to the Provision of Education** These activities take place occasionally during school time and charges levied are voluntary. This includes the provision of ingredients/materials/cost of items for areas such as cookery or craft. Such provision is voluntary and no child will be excluded from such an activity on the grounds of his/her parents' unwillingness or inability to pay.
6. **Extra Activities** (See also the school's ***Clubs, Visitors and Extra Curricular Activities policy***) Charges will be levied for some extra curricular activities, including visits to school by authors, storytellers and musicians. They are chargeable on the same terms as educational visits.
7. **Extended learning** Clubs such as tennis, football, drama, photography etc are run during lunchtime, after school, and occasionally before school. Charges are levied per pupil for after school clubs to cover the cost of running these clubs.
8. **Year 6 School Journey** Every Summer Term, Year 6 pupils are given the opportunity to attend a residential away week. Families are provided with several months' notice

and the costs of the trip is recharged to parents in full, including the costs associated with staff e.g. accommodation, though not salary costs.

9. **Other Residential Visits** The school may organise other residential experiences for children in Y5 or Y6. These are chargeable in the same manner as for the main school journey.
10. **School Lunches** Parents purchase lunches which are provided by the catering contractor not the school. The school provides the cashless booking system, by which parents pay for the meals and receives the income. The contractor invoices the school for meals purchased. Children in Reception and KS1 classes are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM). For the academic year 2023-24, the Mayor of London has funded KS2 pupil meals. Families on low incomes can apply for free school meals for children of all ages.

REMISSIONS POLICY

11. Parents receiving Income Support or do not have to pay any charges but may wish to make a contribution. It is the responsibility of the family concerned, however, to inform the Headteacher (*confidentially*) that they are in such circumstances and also when such circumstances end.
12. Families who are disadvantaged though may not be in receipt of Income Support may seek remission of some of the charges. Parents who wish to do so, should contact the headteacher in confidence. Parents will be expected to make a contribution, and there is no guarantee that a remission may be offered.
13. The Blue School Governors wish to emphasise that there is no obligation to contribute and that no pupil will be omitted from any activity because of parental unwillingness or inability to contribute.

DAMAGE TO / LOST SCHOOL PROPERTY

14. (In line with the school's Behaviour policy) the Blue School Governors will continue the policy of expecting parents to pay for replacement/repair to all items of school property which have been damaged deliberately, due to a pupil's poor behaviour.
15. Parents may be requested to replace school equipment, books etc which have been lost by their child.

Appendix 1

Analysis of Annual Impact (2023-24)

Items charged to parents and carers	Income
Total income received from charging	
Total income from Parental Giving	
Total income from parents and carers	
Total expenditure on charged items	
Total remissions	
Surplus / Shortfall	