

Kempshott Junior School Charging Policy

Policy Ratified by Governing Body	5 th February 2025	<i>Review Annually or as required*</i>
Date of Review	Spring Term 2025	<i>FGB/Budget approval meeting</i>
Date of Next Review	Spring Term 2026	

Safeguarding Statement

At Kempshott Junior School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at Kempshott Junior School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Introduction

In accordance with the Education Reform Act of 1988, all education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, with the exception of some individual or small group music tuition.

School hours are defined as those when the school is actually in session and do not include the break in the middle of the day.

Voluntary Contributions:

Educational Day Visits

When organising school visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel the visit. If a visit goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

Residential Visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we make a charge for the child's board and lodging, the educational activities and travel expenses.

Parents are required to pay a non-refundable deposit in order to secure their child's place. If a child withdraws from the residential due to illness or injury, a medical certificate is required and a refund will be given, less the deposit.

If a child withdraws because they have changed their mind, the full amount is to be paid.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Many musical and other optional activities for which parents have given their consent in advance are provided voluntarily by staff, out of school hours. These are mostly provided free of charge. Where costs are involved, parents will be asked to contribute to the total so that each activity is self-funding. If funds received are insufficient, the activity may be cancelled.

The school offers many different coaching of sporting activities after school. If a qualified coach, who is not a member of the school staff, runs and organises these sessions, we ask parents to cover the cost incurred. We also ask for contributions to cover the cost of transport to and from sporting fixtures.

Visiting Experts and Performers

Where visiting experts or performers have been invited to support the curriculum, parents will be asked to contribute so that each occasion is self-funding.

Music Tuition

There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by Peripatetic Music Teachers. We give parents information about additional music tuition during the Summer Term in preparation for booking hours for the following academic year. Fees are paid annually and in advance. Pupils joining part way through the year will be charged on a pro-rata basis. No refunds will be available, due to the school's commitment to the Music Service.

Where School or County-owned instruments require regular maintenance, parents will be asked to pay a proportionate charge, notified in advance.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Year 5. We ask for a voluntary contribution from the parents, for the transport costs only. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part.

Loss and Breakage

We maintain the right to recover the full cost of any damage to and/or loss of school property or equipment from the parents of children involved. The initial decision to seek recovery of costs shall be at the discretion of the Head Teacher, having due regard to the circumstances of the loss or damage.

General Considerations

In all cases where costs are involved, the school will endeavour to meet these in respect of pupils where parents have personal difficulties, subject to prior agreement by the Head Teacher.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Governing Body, and will be reviewed annually. In all cases, referenced to "parents" includes those with parental responsibility.

Debt Recovery

Day Visits and Activities – Voluntary Contributions

Money is chased up to the day of the visit and for two weeks after.

Residential and Hampshire Music Lessons – Compulsory Payment

1. The first invoice is sent after monies are 30 days overdue.
2. The second invoice is sent after monies are 60 days overdue along with a letter asking if the parent would like to meet with the Head Teacher to discuss any financial problems that are preventing this payment. Where a meeting takes place, the Head Teacher usually gives the parent an extension on the payment time, along with a schedule of payments.
3. A letter is then sent after a further 7 days expressing disappointment that no payment or contact has been made to resolve the issue.
4. Final letter sent after a further 7 days confirming further disappointment and confirming that if payment is not made by return (or contact still not made) then the case will be passed to the Legal Department at HCC, without further notice to the parents. This letter will be emailed.

In the case of Hampshire Music Service tuition, the families are given 3 payment dates, this process only gets to stage 4 during the final term of the school year.

Procedures for Collecting Outstanding Dinner Money

1. A statement is printed out from the Arbor system on a weekly basis for those who owe 5 or more meals.
2. An Arbor generated text message is then sent to parents and copies are kept in the Overdue Payments file.
3. Due to the ever rising costs associated with school meals, the school needs to ensure that all school meals for children are paid for in a timely manner where parents do not pay in advance or on the day for their child's meals, there is a potential for debts to build up on their account. If this occurs the following policy will be adopted:
The school adopts a strict 'no debt for longer than one week' policy, relating to school meals – emails will be sent out to parents once a debt of more than 5 meals has built up on their child's account and will be asked to pay for those meals as soon as possible. No debt of more than 5 meals per child will be allowed to incur before a request to provide a packed lunch is made. We request that all parents give this policy their full support. If debts are incurred, the school has to pay for those meals eaten. This means that money that should be spent on the children's education, has to cover debt incurred by the parents. *No parent taking their child to a restaurant would expect them to be provided with food without payment and the same applies to a school. I*
4. When the amount reached £30 or more and following regular reminders, in agreement with the Head Teacher, a typed statement is added to the Invoice as follows: *"We would be grateful if this account could be settled within 7 days otherwise we will be unable to provide your child with a school meal. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please do not hesitate to call and make an appointment to see the Head Teacher."* These letters are emailed to the parent.
5. If we are already aware that a family is having financial difficulties, an Invoice is sent out in the usual way but the statement on the Invoice is as follows: *"We are aware of your current situation and have sent an undated invoice of what is outstanding, we would be grateful if part of this amount could be settled within 7 days otherwise we will be unable to provide your child with a school meal"*. This letter is emailed to the parents.