

Ambler  
Primary School and Children's Centre

Policy  
Charging

1 September 2014



Date of next review with Finance and Personnel Committee: September 2015

This plan is subject to on-going change and will be updated as and when required.

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## **1. Introduction**

Ambler Primary school & Children's Centre want all our pupils to have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities, both on and off site, within and outside the curriculum, regardless of their family's financial means. This policy sets out our school approach to charging and remissions, and is informed by local authority guidance. In doing this our intention is to ensure transparency in setting charges and ensure all children are able to access all the provision on offer.

This policy **does not apply** to charges made and determined by other organisations offering activities and services on the school premises.

## **2. Admissions**

No charge will be made for admission.

## **3. School meals**

No charge will be made for pupils entitled to free school meals.

Ambler is part of the Islington pilot scheme for Free School Meals for all children.

## **4. Activities for pupils that take place during school hours**

'School hours are those when school is actually in session and do not include the break in the middle of the school day)

No charge will be made for activities provided during school hours (with the exception of music tuition – see Section 8).

No charge will be made for transport during school hours eg to swimming.

## **5. Activities for pupils that take place outside school hours (non-residential)**

No charge will be made for an activity that takes place outside school hours when it is:

- a) a necessary part of the curriculum
- b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
- c) part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education

We may charge for some other activities that take place outside school hours. The Headteacher will decide which activities we make a charge for. The levels of charge (including any remissions) will be set annually on the recommendation of the Headteacher and the finance committee.

Where we make a charge, the total collected will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise the cost to other pupils by paying more

than an amount equal to the total cost of the activity divided by the number of pupils participating.

Costs we can legally recover are as follows:

- a) teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra
- b) non-teaching staff
- c) any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- d) transport to an activity outside school hours

## **6. Activities that take place partly during school hours either on or off site (non-residential).**

Where the majority of time spent on a non-residential activity is within school hours, we must treat the activity as if it is fully within school hours, and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 4.

If the majority of the time spent on a non-residential activity is outside school hours, we must treat the activity as if it happens fully outside school hours, and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 5.

## **7. Residentials**

Residentials are classified as being within school hours if the number of school sessions missed by the pupils is at least 50% of the number of half days spent on the trip.

### ▪ Board and lodging

We will charge pupils an amount up to the full cost of board and lodging on residentials whether it is classified as taking place within or outside school hours EXCEPT where pupils are legally entitled to remission. In such cases no charge will be made for board and lodging. (See section 11 of guidance for details of legal entitlements to remissions)

### ▪ Travel

If the residential is classified as being within school hours, no charge will be made for travel costs (legal requirement), although, a voluntary contribution may be sought. Where the residential is classified as being outside school hours, a charge will be made for travel to cover the unit cost per pupil other than those entitled to remissions (but no paying pupil will be required to subsidise the cost of non-paying pupils).

### ▪ Activities on residential

If the residential is classified as being within school hours no charge can legally be made for the educational activities provided.

If the residential is classified as being outside school hours, a charge will be made for the educational activities provided (see section 5).

## **8. Music tuition within school hours**

No charge will be made if the music tuition is an essential part of the national curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil (including instrument hire, music books etc).

No charge will be made for the first programme in which the whole class engages with the KS2 Programme of Instrumental and Vocal Tuition (Wider Opportunities). This includes instrument hire, music books etc.

No charge will be made for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours for children in care (including instrument hire, music books etc).

We will charge for all other instrumental and vocal tuition requested by parents and delivered by specialist tutors within school hours, whether offered to an individual or group of pupils. Charges will be determined by the headteacher and the appropriate committee of the governing body and may vary depending on size of group, length of lesson and type of instrument.

Where we make a charge for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours we will remit charges for pupils on free school meals as defined in section 11 of guidance as well as in certain other circumstances (e.g. for siblings) in order to ensure specialist music tuition is accessible and affordable for all children.

## **9. Childcare**

We will charge families for any childcare offered to children before and after school (and during school holidays), with the level of fees and any remissions to be set and reviewed regularly by the governing body, and in accordance with any requirements set by the local authority where it is subsidising the provision.

We will charge for Breakfast Clubs.

Within the Children's Centre we follow the LBI Children's Centre Charging Policy

## **10. Damage to property and breakages**

We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of school property. This will be determined by the headteacher.

We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of property belonging to a third party where the school has been charged. This will be determined by the headteacher.

## **11. Remissions and concessions**

We may choose to subsidise, in full or part, charges for certain activities and pupils, as determined by the Governing Body, advised by the Headteacher. The circumstances in which concessions are applied will be reviewed regularly.

## **12. Voluntary contributions**

If an activity cannot go ahead without sufficient voluntary contributions, this will be explained to parents when the contribution is requested. If the activity has to be cancelled due to insufficient funds, all monies received will be returned to parents.

## **13. Space Hire**

Space at Ambler is hired out to specific organisations and partners:

- Training Rooms - £35 per session (3 hours approx.)
- Outreach Hall - £25 per session (3 hours approx.)
- Consultation Room - £5 per hour
- Meeting Room - £20 per hour
- School Halls - £45 per session (3 hours approx.)
- Crèche Room - £5 per session (3 hours approx.)
- Crèche Staff – Qualified £25 per hour, unqualified £15 per hour
- Site Management (For Weekend Hire or for individual/ extra support) - £20 per hour per person
- Hospitality Charge - £15 per week (1 to 3 people), additional £5 per week for each additional 3 people or part off.

A discount of 50% will be given to certain partner agencies, excluding charges for people.

On some occasions the charge will be waived, at the discretion of the Headteacher.

No charge will be made for partner agencies that assist the Children's Centre in delivering the Core Offer. However, if there is an extended demand on Ambler's infrastructure the hospitality charge will be made.