



LONGWILL SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY

January 2017

Approved by:	Approved by Longwill Governing Body
Date:	January 2017
Next review date: October 2017	36 months from last approval date

Policy for Charging and Remissions

Introduction

Longwill School is committed to providing quality education based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. In practice, this means the pupils have an entitlement to benefit from all educational activities and to:

- Participate fully in school curriculum
- Contribute to all aspects of school life; and
- Be valued partners in the process of education.

These objectives must be seen to inform educational activities, whether in or outside the school and are therefore integral to the process of charging for school activities and to the remission which is available to parents / guardians who are on low income. We aim:

- To make school activities accessible to all pupils regardless of family income;
- To encourage and promote external activities which give added value to the curriculum;
- To provide a process which allows activities to take place at a minimum cost to parents, pupils and to the school; and
- To respond to the wide variations in family income while not adding additional unexpected burdens to the school budget

It is the policy of Longwill School to follow the guidance given by the Local Authority in respect of the way we charge parents.

A Rights Respecting School;

As a Right Respecting School Longwill School do their best to ensure that all pupils are aware of their rights to maximise their potential. This is outlined in several articles of the Rights of the Child Articles 26 and 28 are considered particularly relevant to this policy:

Article 26: You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Article 28: You have the right to a good quality education.

Charging for School Activities (Education Act 1996)

To operate legally, the following applies to all charging.

- For each trip we will invite parents to make voluntary contributions to the school's activities in order to enhance what is otherwise provided e.g. school visits or journeys (see below).
- Parents will only be charged for activities (clubs, sports etc) that happen outside school hours when these activities are not a necessary part of the National Curriculum or that form part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education. We will not make any charge for activities that are an essential part of the school life.
- We will not charge for any activity undertaken within normal school hours.

Residential Visits

At Longwill School, we have the benefit of the Clara Martineau fund which covers all, or most, of the costs of our annual residential trips. On the rare occasions that it does not cover the amount required, the normal regulations will be adhered to according to the LA guidance.

Voluntary contributions

Working with Deaf pupils, it is very much part of the Curriculum and Teaching and learning policies of school to engage in direct experience. School funds take into account of this need and accordingly, fund most of the costs of all the extra trips we make, which are far higher than mainstream schools.

In seeking voluntary contributions for school activities we will make it clear to parents that:

- there is no obligation to contribute;
- that pupils, will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made a contribution.

In consequence we will:

- indicate the level of contribution required for the activity to take place;
- consider that such contribution may include, for example, an element to cover the participation by pupils from low-income families or the cost of travel for accompanying teachers;
- indicate that the activity may not take place if parents are reluctant to support it.

Admissions

There is no charge for admissions.

School meals

There is no charge for pupils who are entitled to free school meals. Pupils who are not entitled to free school meals will be charged a set amount per day which is decided by the Governing Body of the School.

Damage to property and breakages

Where school property has been wilfully damaged by a pupil the school may charge those responsible for some or all of the cost of repair or replacement. Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged by a pupil, and the school has been charged, the school may charge some or all of the cost to those responsible. Whether or not these charges will be made will be decided by the Head Teacher and dependent on the situation.

Remissions

The school will give consideration to the remission of charges to parents or carers who receive the following support payments:

- Income Support
- Income based Job-seekers Allowance
- Student Tax Credit (where the person is not receiving Working Tax Credit as well)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Income related employment and support allowance

Pupils of families who receive these payments are also entitled to free school meals. Parents who are eligible for the remission of charges will be dealt with confidentially. The Head Teacher and Chair of Governors will authorise the remission of charges.

The school may choose to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and pupils, and this will be determined by the Governing Body and Head Teacher.

Contributions

The Governing Body may ask for voluntary contributions to the school for general funds and/or to fund activities that will enrich our pupils' education. In any case where an activity cannot be afforded without voluntary funding, this will be made clear to the parents by the school. If the activity is cancelled all monies paid will be returned to parents. There is no obligation for a parent or carer to make any contribution and the school will in no way pressure parents to make a contribution.

Inability or unwillingness to pay

Longwill School is committed to ensuring fair access and treatment of all pupils and this means ensuring that no pupil will be excluded from an activity because the parents or carers of that pupil are unwilling or unable to pay. If there is insufficient funding for an activity, then it will be cancelled. The identity of the pupil or parents of the pupil who did not want to make the payment, or could not make the payment, will not be disclosed under any circumstances.

Alison Carter

January 2017 (To be reviewed: January 2020 or sooner if necessary).