Gosforth Park First School

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GPFS Charging and Remissions Policy

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Version Control

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GP-GB-PO-036	03	20/10/2025	Governing Body	Reviewed by Staffing and Finance Committee No changes
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1. Introduction

Education provided during school hours is free of charge, except where charging is expressly permitted by law. This includes educational activities, visits and transport provided as part of the school curriculum. Charges will not be made for education provided outside school hours where it forms part of the National Curriculum or other education for which charging is prohibited by law. Charges may be made for certain optional extras, individual or group music tuition and residential board and lodging, subject to statutory requirements and the school's charging and remissions policy.

2. Voluntary contributions

2.1. When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others. Payment for trips and visits is made using Parent Pay.

2.2. If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, there is no obligation to contribute and children will not be excluded or treated differently and no child will be disadvantaged because their family is experiencing financial hardship. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request. Pupils who are eligible for free school meals and/or receive pupil premium funding will not be asked to make a financial contribution to any enrichment activities.

2.3. Examples of activities for which voluntary contributions may be requested. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- visits to the theatre;
- musical events

3. Music tuition

3.1. All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

3.2. There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons.
Charges may be made for individual or group instrumental or vocal tuition provided at the request of a parent, where such tuition is not required as part of the National Curriculum or another statutory entitlement. Parents will be informed of the cost and arrangements before tuition begins. Charges will not exceed the cost of providing the tuition.

3.3. Parents of disadvantaged children and those children for whom the school receives an amount of additional support should approach the Headteacher if they would like their child to receive individual or group music tuition as they may be exempt from these charges. This exemption is a school policy commitment rather than a universal statutory entitlement.

4. Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Year 4. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. No charge will be made for swimming tuition, pool admission or associated transport where swimming forms part of the National Curriculum. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

5. Residential Visits

5.1 Residential visits require a non-refundable deposit to be paid in advance and the balance settled in full before departure. This payment covers board and lodging, beyond the duration of the normal school day.

5.2 Disadvantaged children and those children for whom the school receives an amount of additional support will be exempt from paying for residential visits.

Where residential visits are organised, the school may charge parents for the actual cost of board and lodging, where permitted by law. No charge will be made for education which must legally be provided free of charge.

Parents will be informed in advance of the costs, payment arrangements, cancellation conditions and available financial assistance.

Full remission of board and lodging charges will be provided where required by the Education Act 1996 and associated regulations.

In addition, the school will provide financial support to disadvantaged pupils in accordance with its remissions policy, with the aim of ensuring that financial circumstances do not prevent children from accessing educational opportunities.