Ashdown Primary School

Charging and Remissions Policy

Review Date: Summer 2026

Next review date: Summer 2027

Vision

Empower everyone to discover their potential, develop the skills to thrive with confidence and compassion, and make a positive difference in the world.

At the heart of our vision are our three key drivers:

People, Planet and Potential

People: we put **people** first. Kindness, inclusion, respect and support are the golden threads that run through our school day. Our school community is ambitious yet supportive; a place where everyone is valued and belongs.

Planet: We care deeply about our **planet** and our responsibility to protect it. We learn together how to make choices that are sustainable, kind, and thoughtful—helping children become global citizens who care about the world around them.

Potential: We believe every child and adult in our school community has **unique potential,** and it's our job to nurture it—whether that's academic, creative, social or emotional. We are an ambitious, supportive community where success is celebrated in all its forms.

Ethos Statement

We value everyone, nurture their strengths and enable them to flourish.

Values

Caring, Curious and Confident

Equal Opportunities

At Ashdown Primary School we believe that all children, regardless of first language, disability, race, gender, cultural or socio-economic background, should receive equal access to the full school curriculum.

Disability Statement

Ashdown Primary School is proud to be an inclusive school. We are able to offer access to the full curriculum for children who have a physical disability.

We have easy access into the main part of the building and have disabled toilet facilities within the school.

As with any additional needs the schools work closely with parents and appropriate outside agencies

1. Introduction

1.1 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 individual or group music tuition.

2. Voluntary contributions

2.1 Throughout the year there are likely to be events such as day visits organised for classes in conjunction with their topic work, or visits to the school by Theatres or Workshops etc. Such events play an important part in the school curriculum, extending the learning that is started in the classroom and no child is excluded for financial reasons. When organising school trips or visits, which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents/carers to contribute to the cost of the event. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel the event. If an event goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

2.2 If a parent/carer wishes their child to take part in such an event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, they will need to speak to a Head of School or the Executive Headteacher. This can be in confidence. When a conversation is had regarding the voluntary contribution, a decision is made between the senior leader and the parent/carer as to how much of the contribution they can or are willing to pay. Also, whether another factor may be helpful e.g., more time to pay, or payment in instalments. The school is able to cover some costs to support the family. We will always allow their child to participate fully in the event or activity.

2.3 Parents/carers have the right to know how each event is funded. The school provides this information on request.

2.4 There are no set rules or guidelines about which families (e.g., pupil premium/ non pupil premium) can receive financial support or regarding what the support is for. The school will negotiate with any family in financial difficulty, as this can happen to any family at any time and for a variety of reasons. Learning experiences within the National Curriculum or EYFS Curriculum and/or within the school day will always take priority. Any other activities are at the discretion of the Senior Leaders and are decided on a case-by-case basis. Any financial support is given in the interest of ensuring equality of opportunity for learning. Any support that should be given by another body (e.g., social services) will not be provided by the school.

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 and will make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year or on request. Financial aid can be given to families in receipt of certain government benefits, but this is done on a case-by-case basis and not the blanket contribution dictated by ESCC music service.

4. Extended Services

4.1 Ashdown Primary School operates a Breakfast Club from 7.45am-8.30am for Infant and nursery children at the infant site and from 8.00-8.45am for junior children at the junior site and there is a charge for this. This covers the cost of the breakfast, the staff and the facilities. Any funds leftover after this are spent on other extended services provision (e.g., new equipment for the clubs).

4.2 Ashdown Primary School operates an Extended After School Club from 3.15pm-5pm or 6pm for infant children and from 3.30pm-5pm or 6pm for junior children both are run from the infant site and there is a charge for this. This covers the cost of a healthy snack, the staff and the facilities. Any funds leftover after this are spent on other extended services provision (e.g., new equipment for the club).

5. Residential School Trips

5.1 At the time of writing, there is one residential trip for children in Y6. The cost of this is met largely by contributions by parents. For children whose families are in receipt of certain government benefits, the cost can be reduced and the offer of financial assistance is there for all families. Parents need to speak to the Head of School or the Executive Headteacher to make these arrangements which will be confidential.