Pathway Trust

Charging and Remissions Policy

Policy effective from	1 September 2026
Policy owner	Director of Finance
Policy applies to	Berrow Church Primary School Burnham-on-Sea Infant School Castle Batch Primary School Charfield Primary School Cherry Garden Primary School Downend School East Huntspill Primary School Lyde Green Primary School Mangotsfield School Marlwood School Pawlett Primary School Priory Community School Severn Beach Primary School St Andrew's Church Junior School St Anne's Church Primary School The Castle School The King Alfred School Tortworth Primary School West Huntspill Primary School Worle Community School Pathway Partnership Teams
Policy changes since last version	New policy

1. Admissions

1.1 The school **does not** make requests for financial contributions (either in the form of voluntary contributions, donations or deposits (even if refundable) as any part of its admissions process.

2. Education provided during school hours

2.1 Subject to the limited exceptions outlined in this policy, the school **does not** charge for education provided during school hours, including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or equipment.

3. Education provided outside of school hours

3.1 **No charge** will be made for education provided outside of school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education.

4. School meals

4.1 The school **does not** charge for school meals where the pupil is eligible for free school meals or infant free school meals.

4.2 Pupils who are not entitled to free school meals **will** be charged.

5. Prescribed public examinations

5.1 The school **does not** charge for entry for a prescribed public examination (including resits) if the pupil has been prepared for it by the school.

5.2 However, if a pupil fails without good reason to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus, the school **may** seek to recover the fee from the pupil's parent/carer.

6. Materials, books, instruments or equipment

6.1 The school **may** charge for materials, books, instruments or equipment that the parent/carer wishes their child to keep or own.

6.2 Such charges **will not** exceed the cost of the item and the parent/carer will be made aware at the outset that a charge will be made and the amount.

7. Music, instrumental or vocal tuition

7.1 The school **may** charge for tuition in singing or in playing a musical instrument during school hours if it is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer. This applies to individual and group tuition.

7.2 The charges **will not** exceed the cost of the provision and may include the cost of the staff to provide the tuition, instruments, music books and exam fees.

7.3 **No charge** will be made if the tuition is:

- Provided to a pupil who is looked after by a local authority; or

- Provided as part of the national curriculum during school hours, or required as part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination for which the pupil is being prepared by the school.

8. Transport

8.1 The school **does not** charge for:

- Transporting pupils to or from the school's premises where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting pupils to other premises where the school or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated.
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for that examination by the school.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

9. Residential visits

9.1 The school **does not** charge for:

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours.
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or is part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

9.2 The school **will** charge for board and lodging relating to residential visits (see section 10).

10. Optional extras

10.1 The school **does** charge for optional extras.

10.2 Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement will be required before an optional extra for which a charge is made is provided.

10.3 Optional extras include:

- Education provided outside of school hours that is not part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of religious education.
- Examination entry fee(s) if the pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) by the school.
- Other transport (outside of that outlined in section 8).
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit.

- Extended day services offered to pupils (e.g., breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

10.4 In calculating the cost of an optional extra an amount **will** be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra.
- The cost of buildings and accommodation.
- Non-teaching staff.
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, which includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra.
- The cost or an appropriate proportion of the costs for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra.

10.5 Any charge for an optional extra **will not** exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra divided equally by the number of pupils participating. It **will not** include an element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parent/carer is unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

11. Voluntary contributions

11.1 The school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any of its activities.

11.2 Where it is intended that an activity is to be funded by voluntary contributions, the Headteacher will ensure that parents/carers are made aware at the outset that:

- The activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions.
- There is no obligation to make any contribution.
- If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund the activity and the school is unable to fund it from some other source, then the activity will be cancelled.

11.3 No pupil will be excluded from an activity simply because their parent/carer is unwilling or unable to pay. Pupils whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay will still be given an equal chance to participate in the activity.

12. Refunds

12.1 Requests for refunds for activities will be considered on an individual basis and may be rejected if the school is unable to recoup the costs incurred.

12.2 In all cases of withdrawal, either voluntarily or otherwise, applications should be made in writing to the Headteacher. If approved, refunds will be processed via the original method of payment.

12.3 The school reserves the right not to refund costs where a pupil is withdrawn from an activity by the school on the basis of a pupil's breach of the school's behaviour policy.

13. Damage to property and breakages

13.1 Where the school's property has been wilfully or recklessly damaged by a pupil or parent/carer, the school **may** charge those responsible for some or all of the cost of repair or replacement.

13.2 Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged by a pupil and the school has been charged, the school **may** charge those responsible for some or all of the cost.

14. Remissions

Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits **may** be exempt from paying certain costs (including the cost of board and lodging related to residential visits):

- Income Support.
- Income-based Job-seekers Allowance.
- Child Tax Credit (where the person is not receiving Working Tax Credit as well and has an annual gross income of no more than £16,190).
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit run-on.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Universal Credit — if applied for on or after 1 April 2018, household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits).

15. Complaints

Complaints regarding this policy or its application should be raised under the school's usual complaints procedure.