



**BRYN CELYNNOG**

Comprehensive School

*Nurturing Success*

# **CHARGING & REMISSION POLICY**

**LAST APPROVED BY GOVERNORS:  
JANUARY 2024**

**DATE FOR REVIEW: JANUARY 2025**

# **BRYN CELYNNOG COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**

## **CHARGING & REMISSION POLICY**

### **Philosophy**

The Governing Body acknowledges the right of every student to receive free school education and understands that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time must be made available to all students regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.

The governors also recognise the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, trips and residential experiences can make towards pupils' education and aim to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities.

### **Principles**

The objectives of the charging provisions in the 1988 Education Reform Act updated 1996 are:

- To maintain the right to free school education;
- To establish that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost;
- To emphasise that there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to give LAs and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours;
- To confirm the right of LAs and schools to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, or in support of any activity organised by the school, whether during or outside school hours.

The purpose of this policy is to set out what charges can and cannot be made for activities at Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School.

The policy has been drawn up in accordance with Sections 449-462 of The Education Act 1996 (formerly the 1988 Education Reform Act), which sets out the law regarding what charges can and cannot be made for activities in schools maintained by local authorities.

### **Procedures**

#### **a) Circumstances where no charge is made**

No charge will be made for:

##### **Education in School**

- Education provided wholly or mainly during school hours.
- Admission to school for children of compulsory school age.
- Activities which are part of the National Curriculum, or are part of a prescribed examination syllabus, or part of Religious Education.
- The supply of any materials, books and instruments or other equipment.

### **Transport**

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated.
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit which is part of the National Curriculum.

### **Residential visits**

- 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 at the school, or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

### **Music Tuition**

- Children learning to play musical instruments as 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 part of religious education; or
- Cost associated with preparing a pupil for an examination.

### **Examination fees**

- One entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.

## **b) Circumstances where the school may charge parents**

### **Optional Extras**

Charges may be made for other activities known as 'optional extras'. Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge may be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment as follows:

#### **Education**

- Activities which take place mainly or wholly out of school time if they are not part of the National Curriculum, not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupils being prepared for at the school and not part of religious education.
- Materials used in practical subjects and project assignments provided parents have agreed in advance that they or the pupil wish to keep the finished product e.g. ingredients or materials.

### **Music tuition**

- Musical instrument tuition provided to individual pupils or to a group of not more than four pupils if the teaching of music tuition is not part of the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil, at a charge of £35 per pupil per term, or as agreed by the Finance Sub Committee.

### **Transport**

- Transport that is not required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education.
- Transport and other costs associated with trips which occur wholly or mainly outside school time and do not relate to a public examination, the National Curriculum or statutory duties relating to RE.

### **Examination Fees**

- An examination for which the pupil has not been entered by the school;
- An examination where no further preparation has been provided by the school;
- A pupil entered for an examination fails to complete the examination requirement (including failing to sit the examination);
- An examination result is being re-scrutinised at the request of a parent/carer.
- A pupil chooses to re-sit an examination.

### **Board and Lodgings**

- The cost of board and lodging for residential trips, even when taking place largely during school time.

### **c) Voluntary Contributions**

Although schools cannot charge for school time activities, voluntary contributions may be sought from parents for activities which supplement the normal school curriculum.

Requests to parents for voluntary contributions will state that:

- there is no legal obligation to make a voluntary contribution;
- pupils will not be excluded through parents' inability or unwillingness to pay;
- pupils of parents who cannot contribute will not be treated any differently;
- where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible and there is no way to make up the shortfall, the activity will be cancelled.

Requests made for voluntary contributions made in respect of individual pupils must not include any element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

#### **d) Remissions**

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging of a residential trip:

- a. Income Support.
- b. Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- c. In receipt of any other benefit or allowance, or entitled to any tax credit under the Tax Credits Act 2002 or element of such a tax credit, as may be prescribed by regulations from time to time for any period wholly or partly comprised in the time spent on the trip. Currently the following are prescribed:
  - support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
  - Child Tax Credit, providing Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed the limit, i.e. children who are eligible to receive free school meals;
  - Income Related Employment and Support Allowance.
- d. Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit.
- e) Receipt of universal credit.

The governing body may wish to remit in full or in part, the cost of other activities for parents in certain circumstances.

#### **Assistance to Parents**

Where family income is limited, there are various forms of help available to parents. This is an entitlement and not charity and parents are encouraged to make use of these facilities where applicable. Confidential advice will always be given by staff at the School.

Examples of assistance to parents are:

- Free Meals – where a family is in receipt of Income Support. Applications can be made through the school to the Unified Benefits department at the LA.
- Free Clothing – assistance is given by means testing. Application forms available from the LA.
- Travel Claims – assistance may be given for students living over 3 miles from School and for students whose parents are on low income over 2 miles – further information from the LA.

### **e) Supplementary Information**

#### **Uniform, P.E. Kit, Calculators, Pens etc. Aprons**

Parents can be invited to equip their child with items of personal equipment intended to be used solely by their child.

#### **Breakages and Damage**

If a pupil's behaviour results in damage to school property or equipment, parents may be asked to pay for the necessary repair or replacement. Each incident should be dealt with on its own merit and at the school's discretion.

### **PERFORMANCE**

This policy will be monitored by the Governing Body's Monitoring Committee and reviewed at least every two years in the light of new legislation or guidance.

## Sample Letter 1

### Voluntary donation for Trip/Visit/Practical Activity

Dear Parent / Guardian

The school is organising a **[Trip/Visit/Practical Activity]** to **[place]** on **[date(s)]**. Activities such as this are beneficial because they give pupils experiences they may not otherwise have.

All contributions are voluntary and the proposed activity may not take place unless a substantial majority of parents contribute. If a **[Trip/Visit/Practical Activity]** goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded and the school provides this information on request.

Your contribution will cover **[specify: meals (breakfast, packed lunch, and evening meal), insurance, transport and equipment costs]**.

To make your contribution please complete the reply slip below and return it with your donation in an envelope marked with your child's name, form and 'school donation' to the school office by **[date]**.

Cheques should be made payable to **[name]**.

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely,

**[name]**

.....  
**REPLY SLIP**

**(Trip / visit / practical activity) donation to (place) on (date)**

Name of student: .....

Registration Group: .....

I enclose payment by cheque / cash to the value of: £.....

Signature of parent / guardian.....

Date: .....

## **Sample letter 2**

### **Payment for 'Optional Extra'**

Dear Parent / Guardian

The school is organising a **[Trip/Visit/Practical Activity]** to **[place]** on **[date(s)]**. Activities such as this are beneficial because they give pupils experiences they may not otherwise have.

The cost of this **[Trip/Visit/Practical Activity]** per pupil is **[amount]**.

This will cover **[specify: accommodation, meals (breakfast, packed lunch, and evening meal), insurance, transport and equipment costs]**.

The school is not in a position to subsidise this visit, or to offer remission of charges, therefore a payment from each pupil wishing to attend will be required. Please note that if not enough interest is shown it may have to be cancelled.

To make your payment please complete the reply slip below and return it with your payment in an envelope marked with your child's name, form and name of 'trip/visit/practical activity' to the school office by **[date]**.

Cheques should be made payable to **[name]**.

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely,

**[name]**

.....  
**REPLY SLIP**

**(Optional Extra) payment for (trip / visit / practical activity) to (place) on (date)**

Name of student: .....

Registration Group: .....

I enclose payment by cheque / cash to the value of: £.....

Signature of parent / guardian.....

Date: .....



## **Sample letter 3**

### **Residential Trips**

Dear Parent/ Guardian

The school is organising a Residential Trip to **[place]** on **[date(s)]**.

Activities such as this are beneficial because they give pupils experiences they may not otherwise have.

No charge is being made for the activity or travel; however there is a charge of **[amount]** to cover the costs of board and lodging.

To make your payment please complete the remittance slip below and return it with your payment in an envelope marked with your child's name, form and name of residential trip to the school office by **[date]**.

Cheques should be made payable to **[name]**.

We do not ask parents who receive certain benefits to make a payment. Please refer to the school's Charging & Remissions Policy for more details. If you receive any of the benefits listed, please complete the attached exemption slip and return it in an envelope marked with your child's name and form to the school office by **[date]**.

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely

**[name]**

