

CHARGING POLICY



YSGOL GYNRADD GATHOLIG PADARN SANT

Date Adopted: Spring Term 2025

Date of Review: Autumn Term 2025

David Greaney, Chair of the Governing Body

Signed: D. Greaney

Charging and Remissions Overview

Government legislation states that schools are unable to insist that parents pay for trips etc. that take place in school time. Our governing body, in common with all other schools, sets out a charging policy to prevent the school going into debt or parents subsidising each other. The school receives no money from the education authority to fund trips and therefore this cost must be passed on to parents. We consider that educational visits are essential in bringing learning to life and hope that you support us over this. The school makes no profit with a trip. If a parent has a financial problem, then the school may be able to help, and the Head teacher should be approached directly.

Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the possible exception of individual or group music tuition.

Information on transitional protection:

On 1 April 2019, the Welsh Government introduced new rules for claiming free school meals. Because of this, a relatively small number of children and young people could have lost their eligibility for free school meals. "Transitional protection" was introduced to ensure that these children and young people continue to receive free school meals for a limited period of time.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school sometimes asks the Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) to pay a contribution to the hire of the bus if the voluntary cost of the trip will be considered high for the parents to cover. The school invites parents to contribute to the cost of most school trips. All contributions are voluntary, but we do encourage parents to pay for the trips to make the trip economically viable. Pupils who are on Free School Meals (FSM) and including Transitional Protection (TP) -but not Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)- are asked to voluntarily pay half of the cost of the day trips.

The UIFSM pupils will be asked to voluntarily pay for all the cost of the trips. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip, and this will be made clear to parents by the school. If the activity is cancelled, all monies will be returned to parents/carers. The identity of the child or parents/ carers of the child who are unwilling or unable to contribute will not be disclosed under any circumstances. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents/carers have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others. If a parent/ carer wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary

contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Parents/carers have a right to know how each trip is funded, and the school will provide this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organized by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents.

This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums.
- sporting activities which require transport expenses.
- outdoor adventure activities.
- visits to the theatre / cinema.
- school trips.
- musical events.
- workshops in the school through external providers.

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the Curriculum for Wales (CfW), we do not make any charge for the education component of the visit. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board, lodging and travelling. We do encourage parents to pay for the trips to make the trip economically viable, or the trip may be delayed or cancelled if the board, lodging and travel cannot be paid for.

- Pupils who are on Free School Meals (FSM) but excluding Transitional Protection (TP) and Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) are asked voluntarily to pay just the deposit of the residential trip and money from the PDG income will be used to pay the additional money for the board, lodging and travelling.
- The TP pupils will pay half of the residential trip and the PDG will be used to pay the remaining half of the amount for the board, lodgings and travel.
- The UIFSM pupils will be asked to voluntarily pay for all the trip which includes the cost of the board, lodging and travel.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. There may be a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the CfW. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. The parents pay directly for this service to Ceredigion County Council. This is noted in the school prospectus. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the end of each academic year so they can sign up their child/ren for these additional music

lessons. Pupils who are on Free School Meals (FSM) -excluding Transitional Protection (TP) and Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)- are not asked to pay for the individual or group music tuition but the TP pupils and UIFSM pupils will be asked to voluntarily pay for all individual or group music tuition.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children. These take place in school time and are part of the CfW. We make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place. We ask parents to provide goggles for their children if possible.

Hockey

We reserve the right to charge children if they are involved in the extra-curricular activity of hockey on the Astroturf at Plascrug Leisure Centre. If any costs are incurred to hire the pitch, pupils who are on Free School Meals (FSM) are not asked to pay this hockey charge and Transitional Protection (TP) pupils will be charged half the amount required and UIFSM pupils will pay the full charge. The school makes no profit from this.

Leavers' Hoodies

We reserve the right to charge children for Leavers' Hoodies. However, we use these charges only to cover the expenses of the garment and not to make a profit. During 2024-25, pupils who are on Free School Meals (FSM) are not asked to pay.

School Social Events

We reserve the right to charge children for entry into social events. However, we use these charges mainly to cover the expenses of the event with any surplus money going to the PTA. During 2024-25, pupils who are on Free School Meals (FSM) will not be asked to pay for entry to social events, but UIFSM pupils will be asked to voluntarily pay for entry to these social events. Transitional Protection (TP) pupils will be asked to pay half of the entrance fee. Food and refreshments will be charged at full price.

Travelling

We reserve the right to charge children if they are transported by bus to an extra-curricular activity. However, we use these charges only to cover the expenses of the trip, and not to make a profit.

Date of next review: September 2025