



## The Federation of Cherry Oak School, Victoria School and Victoria College

### Charging and Remissions Policy Statement

#### **Rationale:**

The Governing Body of the Cherry Oak School & Victoria School recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including trips, clubs and residential experiences can make towards pupils' education.

The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of both schools and as additional optional activities.

#### **Context:**

The law states that education provided during school hours must be free. This definition includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by the Local Authority or the School. No pupil may be left out of an activity because their parents cannot or will not make a contribution of any kind.

#### **Aims:**

- To make both schools activities accessible to pupils regardless of family income.
- To provide a process which allows activities to take place at a minimum cost to parents, pupils and the schools and;
- Which acknowledges the cost of such activities to the school's budget?

#### **Charges:**

The governing body reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances for activities organised by the school

#### ***Residential Activities Taking Place Largely During School Hours:***

The full cost to each pupil of board and lodging. Parents have the right to claim free activities if they are in receipt of the following state benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Support under section VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1996
- Working tax credit and an annual income that does not exceed the published Inland Revenue threshold

**Activities outside School Hours:**

The full cost to each pupil of all approved activities deemed to be optional extras that are not a necessary part of the national curriculum.

**Swimming:**

Where swimming does not form part of the National Curriculum, the school may decide to make a charge.

**Remissions:**

There will be no obligation for any parent to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of school activities and to the School Fund. Pupils will not be treated differently whether or not their parents have made a contribution.

The Governing Body may wish to remit in full or in part the cost of other activities for particular groups of parents, for example, in the case of family hardship. When arranging a chargeable activity such parents will be invited in confidence for the remission of charges in full or in part. The Executive Head Teacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors will make authorisation for such remission.

**Voluntary Contributions:**

Voluntary contributions may be requested from parents to cover the cost of the following on all off-site activities:

- Transport
- Entrance fees
- Food/snacks
- Resources

The school may decide to cancel any activity where insufficient funds are raised. Parents are informed of this through the letter that is sent to them prior to an off-site activity.

**General:**

The Governing Body may from time to time, amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made. Nothing in this policy statement precludes the Governing Body from inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of additional activities, which take place in school time. Parents may be advised that the continuance of an activity may depend upon voluntary contributions, but once it has been decided to run such an activity no qualifying child will be excluded on the grounds of voluntary contributions.

Date Accepted by Governors: .....

Signed: .....

Committee: .....

Review Date: February 2018