



St. Mary's CE (VC) Primary
School

School Lettings & Charging
Policy

Autumn 2020

School Lettings Policy including Terms and Conditions for the Hire of the School Premises

Introduction

The Governing Body regards the school buildings and grounds as a community asset and will make every reasonable effort to enable them to be used as much as possible. The Governing Body will endeavour to maximise the use of the premises to support the local families, services and community with first priorities for providing the best possible education for its pupils. Any lettings of the premises to outside organisations will be considered with this in mind. It is important however that requests for lettings are fully considered and that the lettings are properly documented to ensure all parties are aware of their mutual responsibilities.

This policy is therefore expected to assist this and provide advice on:

1. Definition of a school letting.
2. Types of Agreement
3. Governance
4. Administrative process
5. Matters for consideration, including finance issues, public liability, health and safety and other matters.

Definition of a School Letting

A letting may be defined as “any use of the school premises (buildings and grounds) by either individuals or community group (such as a local music group or football team), or a commercial organisation (such as the local branch of ‘Weight Watchers’). A letting must not interfere with the primary activity of the school, which is to provide a high standard of education for all its pupils. Use of the premises for activities such as staff meetings, parents’ meetings, Governing Body meetings and extra-curricular activities of pupils supervised by school staff, fall within the corporate life of the school. Costs arising from these uses are therefore a legitimate charge against the school’s delegated budget.

The use of the school premises by way of a letting is a temporary arrangement for the use of the accommodation. It is expected that the letting will usually be by completion of a school letting form, or occasionally a more formal licence or lease. Advice on what is the most appropriate form of agreement can be found below.

Where partnership activities are planned (e.g. between school, other local authority services and other 3rd parties), a responsible identified lead (if not the school) is to be established

who takes full responsibility for leadership, finance, lettings application, safeguarding and all aspects of risk management between all parties.

Types of Agreement

There are two basic types of agreement that are envisaged for typical school lettings.

School Letting Agreement

This is expected to cover the hire of rooms for occasional use of space that is also shared with other users, e.g. use of school halls etc. It can also be used when a third party is using space more intensively, e.g. they have full use of some rooms but the council retains control of access to the buildings, i.e. the third party is dependent on the Council as key-holder to the school site. A draft version is attached and the school will be able to arrange this themselves. Generally the school should

- Ensure that the terms and conditions are attached to the Agreement, all the blanks are filled in and it is signed prior to occupation.
- The agreement should have an identity number so its issue can be traced and reduce the risk of standard forms being copied and used without proper authority.
- The school would manage this process themselves.

The hire agreement is personal to the Hirer only and nothing in it is intended to have the effect of giving exclusive possession of any part of the school to it or of creating any tenancy between the school and the Hirer.

Formal 'Property' Agreement

- This may be a lease or licence and would be required in a number of scenarios:-
- The occupation is expected to be of a long term nature. The school could grant successive School Letting Agreements. There may be benefits to the hirer or the school to have a longer term agreement to provide security and perhaps help gain external funding.
- The hirer is to occupy a stand-alone building.
- The hirer is providing a business use not linked to the school's educational role.
- The hirer is expected to take on more responsibilities for its use, e.g. perhaps the level of repair, health and safety issues etc.

Governance

Management and Administration of lettings/Governance

The Headteacher is responsible for the management of lettings in accordance with the Governing Body's policy. Where appropriate, the Headteacher may delegate all or part of

this responsibility to other members of staff, whilst still retaining overall responsibility for the lettings process.

If the Headteacher has any concern about whether a particular request for a letting is appropriate or not, they will consult with the Chair of Governors, who is empowered to determine the issue on behalf of the Governing body. A risk assessment must be conducted for each proposed letting. Governing bodies must consider the need for business and financial planning, procurement and legal advice in relation to Extended Services, and any necessary changes in Governance.

The Administrative Process

Those seeking to hire part of the school premises should approach the Headteacher, who will identify their requirements and clarify the facilities available.

An Application Form should be completed at this stage to provide basic details of the applicant.

The Governing body will consider this with regard to the matters contained in this policy and shall advise the applicant of its decision.

Once it has been decided to proceed with a letting a letter of confirmation will be sent to the successful applicant, 'the Hirer', setting out full details of the letting and enclosing a copy of the terms and conditions and the relevant agreement.

This letting should not take place until the signed agreement has been returned to the school. The person applying to hire the premises on behalf of the Hirer will be invoiced for the cost of the letting, in accordance with the Governing Body's current scale of charges.

The Hirer must give their full details with the agreement in their name, including their permanent private address (for individual lettings) or named senior personnel. Contact details, full business address and any registered Charity/Company registration numbers.

No letting should be regarded as "booked" until the written agreement has been signed by both parties, any deposit/pre-payment has been paid as appropriate and approval has been given by the relevant person on behalf of the school.

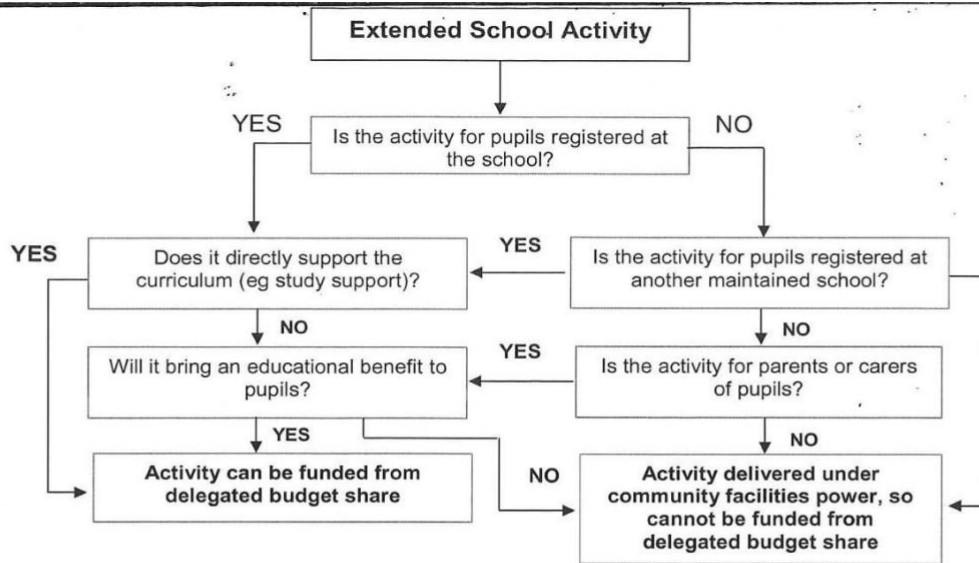
No public announcement of any activity or function taking place should be made by the Hirer until the booking has been formally approved as per paragraph above.

Matters for Consideration

The Headteacher will need to consider a number of issues prior to agreeing a letting. This may raise concerns that may be addressed in the Agreement.

Finance

The school's delegated budget will not be used to subsidise any letting unless it is of direct benefit for pupils. A charge will be made to meet the costs incurred by the school for any lettings of the premises. At the very least the actual cost to the school of any use of the premises by the Hirer must be paid.



Having asked the above questions and considered the particular circumstances of any proposed letting a school might decide, for example that a parenting class is eligible for funding from the delegated budget because it helps pupils' parents/carers to support pupils' learning. Schools might also decide that a breakfast club for children held during term time is eligible for funding from the delegated budget because it would help to ensure that pupils are in class on time and ready to learn. But schools might consider that a play scheme during holidays is not eligible for funding from the delegated budget if its purpose is mainly childcare i.e. that it is a community facility rather than of being any direct benefits to pupils.

Charges for a Letting

The governing Body is responsible for setting charges for the letting of the school premises.

A charge will be levied which may cover the following

To ensure the school breaks even £20.00 an hour broken down as follows:-

Heating and lighting - £10.00

Staffing and Security (site Manager) - £ 5.00

Use of premises and equipment - £ 5.00

In order to achieve full cost recovery the school Budget Manager/Caretaking/Energy Service provider should calculate costs using school financial and energy costs based on actual room sizes.

Next Review: Autumn 2020

St. Mary's CE (VC) Primary School

Charging Policy

Introduction

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.

Where there are multiple lettings taking place at the same time, the costs for services and staffing will normally be shared between the various hirers. The specific charge levied will be reviewed annually, by the Full Governing Body, for implementation from the beginning of the next financial year, with effect from 1st April of that year. Current charges will be provided in advance of any letting being agreed.

Charges should be paid preferably before the commencement of the letting, but in any event the Hirer must pay within 28 days before the commencement of the letting. Failure to

do so will mean that no further use of the premises can be made until such costs are paid in full. Legal proceedings will commence in cases where such payments are not forthcoming.

All lettings fees which are received by the school will be paid into the school's individual bank account, in order to offset the costs of services, staffing etc (which are funded from the school's delegated budget). Income and expenditure associated with lettings will be regularly monitored to ensure that at least a "break even" situation is being achieved.

The school must ensure that the Hirer has ensured that the number of persons using the premises does not exceed that for which the application was made and approval given, and that all terms and conditions are being adhered to, including responsibility for payment of all fees or other sums due in respect of the letting. Because the school prioritises local not for-profit groups e.g. Brownies and Guides, which many of St. Mary's children and ex-children attend individually agreed charges may apply.

VAT

In general, the letting of rooms for non-sporting activities is exempt VAT, whereas sports lettings are subject to VAT (although there are exemptions in certain circumstances). Clarification should be obtained from VAT Officer. There are no VAT remissions for 'Not for Profit' companies limited by guarantee.

Public Liability and Accidental Damage Insurance

As an alternative to asking each Hirer to separately arrange public liability (to £5 million), employer liability (to £10 million) and accidental damage insurance, it is possible for the Governing Body to take out a single insurance policy covering all lettings and then to recoup the cost of the insurance premium via the lettings fee. The school will obtain confirmation that the Hirer has public liability insurance and appropriate insurance for any additional items brought into the school.

It is the Hirer's responsibility to ensure that all those attending the premises are made aware that they do so entirely at their own risk. A risk assessment will be conducted for each hiring/activity by both the school and Hirer together. Copies must be given to the Hirer and kept on file in school.

The Governing Body has arranged appropriate public liability insurance to cover all legal liabilities for accidents resulting in injuries to persons (including all participants in the activity for which the premises are being hired), and /or loss of or damage to property, including the hired premises, arising out of the letting. A pro-rata cost of the insurance premium has been included in the hire charge.

The Hirer warrants to the Governing body that it has appropriate public liability insurance to cover all its legal liabilities for accidents resulting in injuries to persons (including all participants in the activities for which the premises are being hired), and/or loss of or damage to property, including the hired premises, arising out of the letting. A pro-rata cost of the insurance premium has been included in the hire charge.

The Hirer warrants to the governing body that it has appropriate public liability insurance to cover all its legal liabilities for accidents resulting in injuries to persons (including all participants in the activity for which the premises are being hired), and/or loss of or damage to property, including the hired premises, arising out of the letting. The minimum limit for this insurance cover is £2 million. The Hirer must produce the appropriate certificate of insurance cover before the letting can be confirmed.

Neither the school, nor the Local authority, will be responsible for any injury to persons or damage to property arising out of the letting of the premises.

Safeguarding

Status of the Hirer & Safeguarding of Children and Young People

Lettings will not be made to persons under the age of 18, or to any organisation or group or individual with an unlawful or extremist background or to anybody to whom the school does not wish to hire the premises. Persons may have to undergo, at the discretion of the Governing Body, a criminal record check via the DBS route. If a particular letting involves contact with the school's pupils, all personnel involved must have appropriate recruitment and vetting checks in accordance with DFE guidance. All staff in schools are required to be cleared at enhanced level and therefore this should be replicated across to Hirers. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the Hirer has ensured adequate supervision, ratios and up to date and adequate DBS checks. The Hirer will maintain and provide copies to the school, in relation to DBS evidence, contact details (including all emergency contacts), changes in staffing, responsibilities and absence.

These checks must be made by prior arrangement with the Headteacher, with at least half a term's notice in advance to ensure that the checks can be carried out prior to the commencement of any letting. Any adults working with the school's pupils (for example, at an after school sports club) must be appropriately qualified. Sports coaches must follow the LA's guidance for working in schools. The school will ensure that any Hirer shall not sub-let the premises to another person.

The Dudley Children Safeguarding board states that a 'safe organisation' is one that ensures that its governing body, all of its employees, commissioned or contracted agents and volunteers or adult participants are aware of their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults and provides the following

Safe recruitment/selection practice (including but not only rigorous checking of applications, CVs, references and appropriate DBS checks) – including the training of those who recruit staff to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Clear expectations on staff with regard to personal conduct and promoting the well-being of children and adult service users.

Good indication systems and ongoing training/updates for staff (and others) in minimum standards in child protection, even where the primary service users are adults who are parents (not children).

Clear access to Dudley Children Safeguarding Board procedures and guidance for the protection of children.

Awareness of local protocols and systems for information sharing and referral.

Good supervision of staff/volunteers.

Clear and accessible complaints and whistle-blowing procedures.

Adherence to agreed local procedures for investigating allegations of harm or misconduct to children by persons in positions of trust – including independent advice and referral to the police as necessary.

Good record keeping (including decision-making about concerns/allegations) and database systems.

A formal and independent review process for learning from serious untoward incidents with regard to abuse of children or adults by those in a position of trust.

Regular audits of the above to ensure compliance.

Leadership/accountability in a named senior manager and clear access to specialist advice about child protection or the protection of vulnerable adults (externally if not available within the organisation).

Access

Schools should consider the need for Hirers to comply with the Equality Act and make reasonable adjustments. Where this is a strength of the school accommodation, this should be made explicit. However, the responsibility for making sure the accommodation is suitable for the needs of all users, is the responsibility of the Hirer to make a prior judgment before the booking as to whether the facilities available at the school are suitable for disabled access.

The Governing Body reserves the right of access to the premises during any letting. The Headteacher or members of the Governing Body may monitor activities from time to time. The Headteacher will decide conflicting requests for the use of the premises, with priority at all times being given to school functions. Access to the school's toilet facilities is included as part of the hire arrangements.

Subject to availability, car parking facilities may be available for use by the Hirer and other adults involved in the letting. The Hirer will request this in the application form.

Policies

The school will provide the Hirer with copies of appropriate school policies eg. Lettings, Complaints, Equality, Child Protection, Disability & diversity Policies, Health & Safety, which the Hirer is required to comply with.

Copyright or Performing Rights

The school is not responsible for infringements of any subsisting copyright or performing right, and the Hirer must indemnify the Local Authority against all sums of money which the LA may have to pay be reason of an infringement of copyright or performing right occurring during the period of hire.

Electrical Equipment

Any electrical equipment brought by the Hirer onto the school site must comply with the LA code of practice for portable electrical appliance equipment. Equipment must either have a certificate of safety from a qualified electrical engineer or be inspected by the LA prior to use and certified fit for use. The intention to use any electrical equipment must be notified on the application form.

Furniture and Fittings

The Hirer shall pay the cost of any reparation required. No stiletto or any type of thin heel is to be worn. If activities involve outdoor use, Hirers should ensure footwear is cleaned before re-entering the premises. Any damages or broken equipment must be reported to the school site manager whether caused by the Hirer or otherwise, as good vigilance will ensure the safety of all other users.

First Aid Facilities

There is no legal requirement for the school to provide first aid facilities for the Hirer. It is suggested that the Hirer makes its own arrangements. Use of the schools resources is not available.

Food, Smoking Drink & Drugs

No food or drink may be prepared or consumed on the premises without the direct permission of the Governing body, in line with current food hygiene regulations. All litter must be placed in the bins provided. No intoxicants/unlawful drugs shall be brought on to or consumed/used on the premises. The whole of the school premises, including the external areas, is a non-smoking area, and smoking is not permitted.

School Equipment

This can only be used if requested on the application form, and if its use is approved by the Headteacher. Responsible adults must supervise the use of any equipment which is issued and ensure its safe return. The Hirer is liable for any damage, loss or theft of school

equipment it is using, and for the equipment's safe and appropriate use. Use of light or fixed catering/cleaning equipment is limited, and the Hirer will need to demonstrate a competence level for use of equipment, plant or other issues on food hygiene standards. Untrained or inappropriate use of equipment may lead to damage to floors etc or render the equipment inoperable causing service delivery disruption the following day.

Vacation of Premises

The Hirer shall ensure that the premises are vacated promptly at the end of each period of use or letting. The Hirer is responsible for supervising any children taking part in an activity until they are collected by a responsible adult. Additional charges will be made where the caretaker is unable to lock up whilst the Hirer ensures children are safely vacated beyond the time agreed in the letting agreement.

Behaviour

The school must take appropriate measures to ensure the Hirer is responsible for ensuring adequate supervision and preservation of good order for the full duration of the letting and until the premises are vacated, also the prevention of overcrowding and keeping clear all gangways, passages and exits.

Promotional Literature/Newsletters

A draft copy of any information to be distributed to participants or through the school must be sanctioned by the Headteacher at least 7 days prior to distribution by the Hirer.

Site Security/Transportation of Young People/Educational Visits

The Governors will hire and pay for a person to be responsible for the security of the premises before, during and after the hire, and for the cleaning of the premises after its use. This cost will be included in the charge for the letting. If no suitable person can be employed, then the letting will not be allowed or will be cancelled. (School will notify hirers in the event of closure such as for elections). Only named key holders may operate the security system. Keys should not be passed to any other person without direct permission of the Headteacher who must have a signed written agreement form.

The school will be responsible for communicating arrangements for out of hours, school closure, keys and alarms, checking and switching off technical equipment, explaining fire procedures and fire risk assessments and ensuring appropriate risk assessments are completed. The school will also be responsible for checking fixtures & fittings before and after the letting, and keeping signed copies of the Lettings Agreements. The school is responsible for annual checks of fire equipment and displaying arrangements for fire safety.

The school will ensure the Hirer has made appropriate arrangements for uncollected children, and any permission from parents on arrangements for being taken off premises (and emergency contacts), transportation arrangements, transport safety checks, DBS checks of volunteers, appropriate adult:child ratios and supervision arrangements.

Whilst transportation arrangements between establishments are the responsibility of the Hirer, the school will monitor the effectiveness of arrangements from time to time. Risk assessments must also be completed by the Hirer when taking young people off the premises and transporting them between premises. The Hirer is responsible for ensuring that young people normal means of travel are effective after school hours.

Quality of Service

From time to time, staff and Governors have the right to monitor the activities to ensure quality of service/activity operating from the premises, and ask the Hirer to provide data on the number and type of users.

Current Lettings Autumn 2019

Monday – Guides

Tuesday – Brownies

Alternate Thursday – Folk dance

Contributions

When organising school visits which enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the visit. If we do not receive sufficient contributions, we may have to cancel a trip. If a visit goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others. We use Pupil Premium and LAC monies to fund and part-fund visits for children in receipt of those funds.

Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support visits. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require contributions from parents. These activities are known as ‘optional extras’. This list is not exhaustive:

- Visits to museums
- Sporting activities which require transport expenses
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Visits to the theatre
- School visits abroad
- Musical events
- Out of hours clubs
- The cost of extra-curricular and enrichment

All activities that take place in school during the school day are covered by the yearly donation of £10 for the first child and £5 thereafter.

Our PTA runs activities throughout the year and a small charge is levied for these experiences.

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 national curriculum. We make a charge to cover the costs of board, educational activities, and travel. Children in receipt of Pupil Premium are part funded 50% and LAC are fully funded.

Music Tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

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. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all Year 3 children. These take place in school time and are part of the National curriculum. We make a charge towards the cost of the travel to and from the swimming lessons. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

After School Activities

The school offers a range of after school activities. Some are free and some incur a small cost.

Clubs that are paid for are usually paid for in advance.

Example of charges

Charges for Private After School Clubs that are run at school are Payable in Advance