



THE PERSE  
SCHOOL  
CAMBRIDGE

## **POLICY ON LEARNING SUPPORT CHARGES**

**This policy applies to the Perse School (“the School”) which comprises the Relevant Schools (the Perse Pelican Nursery and Pre-Preparatory School including the EYFS setting (“the Pelican School), the Perse Preparatory School (“the Prep School”) and the Perse Upper School (“the Upper School”).**

### **1. Aims**

The School aims to meet the individual needs of all pupils in its care so that they benefit as fully as possible from the education they receive and fulfil their individual potential. Reference should be made to the School’s Learning Difficulties Policy.

### **2. Accessibility**

This policy is available in large print or other accessible format if required.

### **3. Learning Support**

**3.1** Learning Support staff in partnership with parents and, where necessary, the Local Authority, have particular responsibility for:

- Pupils with statements with identified special educational needs
- Pupils with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties
- Pupils who are gifted
- Pupils who have specific learning difficulties
- Pupils who fall behind the general progress of the year group
- Pupils who have sensory, medical or physical difficulties
- Pupils for whom English is an additional language

**3.2** The main aims of Learning Support with particular reference to pupils who require additional support are:

- To ensure a learning environment which meets the statutory requirements
- To encourage a high level of achievement by all pupils within their ability range
- To render the curriculum accessible to all pupils through recognising the need for differentiation and by employing a range of teaching styles
- To educate all staff in identifying pupil needs and relevant learning support developments
- To provide staff support for pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

### **4. Statement of Special Educational Needs**

The formal statutory assessment is intended to be an equitable way of establishing what assistance a pupil requires in order to access education without discrimination because

of his or her disability, and then to protect that pupil's right to access the necessary support by means of a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Once a statement of special educational needs is in place, it is the local authority's ("LA") legal duty to ensure that the pupil receives what is identified as necessary provision to meet the pupils Special Educational Needs

## **5. Charges**

### **5.1. Learning support provided by Perse School Employees**

Learning Support Charges are incurred by parents for regular additional teaching/support from either Learning Support teachers or Learning Support assistants employed by the School. Such regular additional teaching/support will vary according to the needs of each pupil, but may amount to more than one hour of support each week. The first hour of such learning support each week is covered within the standard school fee. Such regular additional teaching/support is charged at the Cambridgeshire LA rate subject to the provisions below.

#### **Pupils without a Statement of Special Educational Needs**

For pupils without a statement of special educational needs, the School requires the parents to provide the necessary funding for any regular and additional teaching/support which the pupil is considered by the School to need. Parents who experience financial difficulty meeting the costs of the regular additional teaching/support should contact the Deputy Bursar to discuss their situation; some means tested financial assistance may be available.

#### **Pupils living within the Cambridgeshire Local Authority.**

Under current arrangements, if a pupil living within the administrative area of Cambridgeshire LA with a Statement of Special Educational Needs applies for a place at the School and the Statement names the School in Part 4, the School must admit the pupil (the LA will only name the School if the offer of a place has already been made).

The LA and the School hold an Annual Review to assess the pupil's needs on transfer. The School would then submit Educational Advice to the Annual Review stating the level of support the School deems necessary. Should the LA fail to meet the requested level of support, parents may appeal the LA's decision to the First Tier Tribunal. If parents decide to proceed with an application to the School without the requested level of support from the LA, the School may agree to that level of support being provided at the cost of the parents. (One hour of learning support per week is included in the standard school fee.)

Parents who experience financial difficulty meeting the costs of the regular additional teaching/support should contact the Deputy Bursar to discuss their situation; some means tested financial assistance may be available.

#### **Pupils living outside the Cambridgeshire Local Authority administrative area.**

If a pupil living outside the Cambridgeshire area with a Statement of Special Educational Need applies for a place at the School, their LA is unlikely to provide funding on the grounds that they may be able to offer the appropriate support within their own County resources. Under these circumstances, the School requires parents to provide the necessary funding for any regular and additional teaching/support which the pupil is deemed by the School and the Statement to need. (One hour of learning support per week is included in the standard school

fee.) Before accepting a pupil who falls into this category, the School would carefully assess the support which each individual pupil might require throughout his or her time at the School to meet the identified needs in the statement and would approach the parents to discuss the level of support required and to ascertain if they would like to proceed. It may be that the cost of support may increase or decrease during the pupil's time at the School and the necessary support and concomitant costs would be reviewed on a termly basis.

Parents who experience financial difficulty meeting the costs of the regular additional teaching/support should contact the Deputy Bursar to discuss their situation; some means tested financial assistance may be available.

#### **Pupils whose needs change.**

For those pupils whose needs change significantly after they have accepted a place at the School or develop significant learning difficulties and/or disabilities during their time at the School, the School would encourage parents to seek a formal statutory assessment of special educational needs, if appropriate. If a statement was not issued and thus financial support were not forthcoming from the LA, the School will charge the parents the cost of any regular additional teaching/support provided. (One hour of learning support per week is included in the standard school fee.)

Parents who experience financial difficulty in meeting the costs of the additional teaching/support should contact the Deputy Bursar to discuss their situation; some means tested financial assistance may be available.

If parents chose not to have their son or daughter formally assessed and therefore not apply for LA support, the School will charge the parents for the cost of any regular additional support provided above and beyond the one hour per week provided as part of the standard school fee.

#### **5.2 Learning Support provided by external learning support specialists**

Occasionally, a pupil may require regular one to one support at school from an external learning support specialist eg a speech therapist. In such cases responsibility for payment lies with the parent who is required to pay for the specialist service direct to the learning support specialist.

Edward Elliott on behalf of the Governors

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