



WEST CROFT SCHOOL

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WEST CROFT SCHOOL LETTINGS POLICY STATEMENT

Adoption

The school governors at their meeting on the 05th March 2024 adopted the lettings policy and the scale of charges set out below

Policy Objectives

The governors adopt and endorse the County's Lettings Policy and recognise the principles therein, namely: -

- (i) that school premises represent a significant capital investment and should be fully utilised ;
- (ii) are a valuable community resource;
- (iii) educational usage, education premises constitutes a natural priority;
- (iv) that a profit margin would be welcome when derived from private or commercial usage but are not the objective when facilitating education activity by designated users.

Priority Usage

The governors have adopted the following categories of priority user :-

- (i) statutory users;
- (ii) designated users;
- (iii) private users.

The governors have applied in each case the definitions identified in the Devon County Council lettings policy document BR11.

Applications for Designated Status

The governing body have delegated their power to determine designated status to the Head Teacher, or the Operations Manger who will exercise discretion on their behalf and determine applications. The outcome of such decisions shall be matter of report to the governing body each term. The Head Teacher will arrange for a

list of approved organisations to be maintained. This does not preclude the Head Teacher / Operation Manager from referring sensitive applications to the full governing body their discretion.

Safeguarding arrangements

The school has a commitment to safeguarding all pupils on site at any time and we will seek to ensure the suitability of adults working with children after school hours prior to any letting arrangements being granted.

In the event of an incident the school will follow our own safeguarding policy including informing LADO.

Conditions of Hire

The governors have adopted the standard Devon County Council account of hire. These terms form Appendix 1 to this Policy Statement.

Administration of Lettings

General

The governors recognise that it would be impossible for them to personally vet every applicant or organisation who wish to make use of the school premises. Accordingly they have delegated the authority to accept applications for hire to the following persons. The Head Teacher or Operations Manger. These persons will take all reasonable steps to ensure hirers are suitable partners to work with the school and will report queries to governors for ratification.

Variations

No member of staff is allowed to vary that in terms and conditions from which the school premises are hired to either individuals or organisations nor to deviate from the governors published charging policy.

Lettings Documentation

All formal hiring of the schools premises, including those for which no charge, is made shall be properly documented. All hirers **must** complete a lettings of hire agreement and are to receive a copy of the conditions of hire. The hire agreement is a contract which the governors may enforce at law.

Scale of Charges

In arriving at their scale of charges the governors have followed the following principles :-

- (i) that statutory users will be charged an amount commensurate with cost recovery;
- (ii) that designated users will be charged no more than cost;

{ it is permissible to charge designated users at less than cost provided that the subsidy is generated from other lettings at cost plus income }

- (iii) that private users will be charged on a cost plus an income margin for the school ;
- (iv) that there will be parity of treatment for similar users;
- (v) that overall the cost of letting school facilities will be recovered from users.

For the purpose of charging the Head Teacher or Operations Manager is/are empowered to determine to which group any particular individual or organisation belongs. The basis of charging will be determined by the purpose for which a letting is arranged.

The scale of charges forms Appendix 2 to this policy statement.

Discounts

These form part of the scale of charges (Appendix 2) and are the only permitted variations to the standard charges.

Value Added Tax

The governors are constrained by law to apply value added tax to all transactions where this is appropriate.

Minimum charges and deposits

The minimum hire period will be two (2) hours.

The governors reserve the right to require a deposit over and above the hiring charge as a surety against damage to the premises (including any equipment) or the premises being left in an unacceptable condition necessitating their incurring additional cost for cleaning, caretaking or other expenses.

Cancellations

Governors will seek to recover any cost incurred by the school which are unavoidable and result directly from the cancellation of a letting. Details of the charges are shown in the scale of charges in Appendix 2.

Payment methods

The governors are mindful of their responsibilities in safeguarding the school from bad debt. Therefore payment at the time of booking is the norm. Cheques or cash are both acceptable but cheques should wherever possible be supported by a guarantee card. In all cases where cash or cheques are paid over then an official receipt must be issued.

Extension of Credit

The governors will allow the extension of credit to bone fide local organisations and individuals where they are satisfied that these are credit worthy. In all the cases the governors reserve the right to withdraw credit facilities where prompt payment is not received. In all cases where credit is extended, an official County Council invoice will be issued. The Governors will not normally extend credit for lettings where the invoice value is less than fifty pounds (£50). The governors have chosen to delegate the approval of credit facilities to the head teacher who is to maintain a list for the guidance of administrative staff. In all cases where credit is advanced the invoice is to be raised at the time of booking.

Security

The governors will not normally insist upon continuous caretaking presence. However they reserve the right and delegated power to the Head Teacher or Operations Manger to insist upon caretaking presence where in his/her view the nature of the hiring may leave the school vulnerable to theft or damage.

Review of Policy

The governors will review the policy annually, as per audit requirements.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL – EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Letting of Educational Premises and Grounds Terms of contract comprised in undermentioned conditions and hire form

NB: Referances in this form to the Council shall in relation to school premises be construed as referances to the governors of that school. The law which applies is the law of England.

Application and Fees

1. The signatory of the application shall be the hirer. Where a promoting organisation is named in the application, that organisation shall also be considered the hirer and shall be jointly and severally liable hereunder with the signatory.
2. The fee payable for the hiring shall be calculated in accordance with the scale of charges published by the Governors. The Governors reserve the right to alter or revise these charges at any time.
3. The fee for an occasional hiring shall be paid to the person authorising the hiring within five days of such hiring being approved and uoin receipt of such fee the hiring shall stand confirmed subject to the provision of condition 4. In the casse of a long term letting the Governors of the hired premises may at their discretion permit the periodic payment of hire charges in arrear.

Cancellation

4. The Governors or their agent(s) acting on their behalf must reserve the right, having good reason, at any time without notice to cancel a hiring or withdraw permissions for the hirer to occupy any part of the hired premises on any particular date. In such event the Governors shall not incur any liability whatsoever to the hirer other than for return of any fee or the appropriate part of any fee paid in respect of the hiring.
5. If the hirer shall cancel the hiring of the premises then the Governors shall be entitled to retain or demand as the case may be the whole of that fee paid in respect of such cancelled hiring PROVIDED THAT if notice of such cancellation in received at least seven days prior to the date of that hiring the fee will be refunded or remitted to the hirer subject only to any necessary deduction or payment in respect of expense is already incurred by the Governors or the Council in respect of that hiring.
6. Bookings are taken to the subject to the premises not being subsequently required for Parlimentary or Local Government elections or other statutory purposes. In the event of the premises being so required, the Governors will refund to the Applicant all all charges made by them and already paid by the Applicant. Neither the Governors nor the council shall be liable to pay any compensation for any loss incurred by the Applicant.

Funniture and Equipment

7. The hirer's use of the hired premises has been deemed to include the use of chairs and tables only.
8. The arrangement of furniture and/or the use of additional furniture or equipment will require the specific approval of the Governors. Such Use may be subject to the scale of charges published by the Governors.
9. Where additional equipment is required by the hirer this will be subject to an additional charge according to the Governors' published scale.

Kitchen Facilities

10. Kitchen facilities and facilities for the preparation of refreshment are **not** included in the hiring unless prior consent for the use of such facilities has been given by the Operations Manager or Head Teacher

Separate conditions of hire exist for catering facilities. Where catering facilities form part of the contract, these conditions, which can be obtained from the school, are deemed to have been accepted.

Health, Safety and conditions of Premises

11 The hirer/hirers shall during the hiring be responsible for :

- a) *Taking all measurements necessary to ensure that the permitted number of persons using the hired premises is not exceeded;*
- b) *The efficient supervision of the hired premises and for the orderly use thereof including the observance of the governors' policy on smoking on school premises;*
- c) *Ensuring that all doors giving egress from the hired premises are kept unfastened and unobstructed and that no obstruction is place or allowed to remain in any corridor giving access to the hired premises;*
- d) *Ensuring that all proper safety measures are taken for the protection of the users of the premises and equipment including adequate adult supervision where young people are concerned;*
- e) *Familiarising themselves and the users of the premises with the fire alarm positions, the locations of the fire-fighting equipment and the establishments exit routes;*
- f) *Ascertaining the location of the nesarest emergency telephone;*
- g) *The provision of a suitable first aid kit;*
- h) *Compliance with the Food Safety Act where catering facilities are involved;*

12 The hirer shall at the end of the hiring be responsible for:

- a) *Ensuring the the hired premises are vacated promptly and quietly:*
- b) *Ensuring that the hired premises are left in a safe and secure condition and in a clean and tidy state – Following COVID all areas must be fully disinfected.*

Failure to comply with these conditions may lead to additional charges.

13

- a) *No nails, tacks, screws or other like objects shall be driven into any part of the hired premises nor shall any placards, decorations or other articles be fixed thereto.*
- b) *No alterations or additions to any electrical installations either permanent or temporary on the hired premises may be made without the written consent of the Govenors. Electrical apparatus must be switched off after use and plugs removed from sockets.*

14 The hirer shall not permit or suffer any damage to be done to the hired premises or any furniture or equipment therein and shall made good to the satisfaction of the governors and pay for any damage thereto (including accidental damage) caused by any act or neglect by himself, his agents or any person on the hired premises by reason of the use thereof by the hirer.

15 It is understood and agreed that the governors do not, either expressly or by implication, warrant the premises to be fit or suitable for any sporting, recreational or other purpose for which the hirer intends to use them but rely entirely on the skill, knowledge and expertise of the hirer in choosing so to use them and require the hirer to discontinue that use immediately upon it becoming reasonably foreseeable that by reason of their condition a participant in or spectator to that sport, recreation or other activity, or any other person is in danger if suffering injury, loss or damage.

16 Except in so far as the Unfair Contract Terms Act, 1977 (or any statutory modification re-enactment of it) otherwise requires, neither the Council nor Governors acting on its behalf will be responsible or liable in any way whatsoever or to any person whatsoever (and whether or not there shall be any negligence by its servants or agents) in respect of:

- a) *Any damage or loss of any property brought onto or left upon the hired premises either by the hirer or any other person;*
- b) *Any loss or injury which may be incurred by or done by or happen to the hirer or any person resorting to the hired premises by reason of the use thereof by the hirer;*
- c) *Any loss to breakdown or machinery, failure of electrical supply, fire, flood or government restriction which may cause the hiring to be interrupted or cancelled;*

and the hirer shall be responsible for and shall indemnify the Council its servants and agents against all claims, demands, actions and costs arising from the hirers use of the hired premises or from any loss, damage or injury suffered by any person arising in any manner whatsoever out of the use of the hired premises by the hirer;

Licences

17 The hired premises shall not be used for the sale or supply of intoxicating liquor, or holding of any public Entertainment, theatrical performances, film exhibition, lottery or other similar function without the consent of the Governors, and such consent shall be subject to the hirer first obtaining the necessary license or permission required under current legislation, and producing this for the scrutiny of the Governors, if required.

18 The hired premises shall not be used for any betting, gaming or gambling.

19 The hirer shall indemnify the Council against any infringement of copyright which may occur during the hiring

General

20 The right of entry to the hired premises at any time during the hiring is reserved for authorised officers and employees of the Council and the head of the establishment or a person authorised by him/her.

21 The hirer and his agents shall during the hiring and during such other times as they or any of them shall be on the hired premises for the purposes of the hiring comply with all reasonable requirements of the caretaker of the hired premises.

22 The hirer shall not sub-let the hired premises or any part thereof and in the event of this condition being breached or any threat thereof then the hiring will stand cancelled, the charges forfeited and the hirer and sub-hirer excluded from the hired premises.

23 Any notice or necessary action required in respect of this hiring may be undertaken by:

- a) *a representative of the Governors;*
- b) *the Chief Education Officer or his duly authorised representative.*

West Croft School

Table of Costs and Charges

The following table shows the costs and charges for the areas available for hire.

The costs include standard 'opening and closing' for normal hours between Monday and Friday.
 Hire of rooms on weekends, bank holidays and outside normal hours may incur additional caretaking charges.
 Hirers will need to make arrangements for their own insurance cover.
 Energy costs are shown per hour and include a surcharge for wear, tear and administration costs.
 Certain facilities because of their nature, (e.g. changing rooms) will always require cleaning. This will need to form part of the basic price quoted to users. This is variable and will depend upon when the hire/cleaning takes place. This cost will be extra to Minimum Hire Costs.
 All quoted charges exclude VAT

Seasonal Factor: Standard
 Time of day factor: Standard

Length of minimum letting: 2 hours
 Surcharge for wear, tear and administration: 10%
 Date of last review: March 2024

Established Hirers

Room	Energy costs Per Hour	Opening costs	Cleaning if required per hour	Minimum hire costs
Hall	£31.64	£19.32	£19.32	£ 82.60
Hall & Kitchen	£41.64	£19.32	£28.98	£ 102.60
JACK Room	£15.82	£19.32	£19.32	£ 50.96
Playground / Field / MUGA	N/A	£19.32	£19.32	£ 19.32
Election Hire				Set price per day of £125.00
HAF Project Holiday letting				Set price per day of £134.17 plus VAT

Additional areas may also be available for hire and requirements should be discussed with the Operations Manager.

Governors may choose to offer special discretionary rates to long term hirers or community groups.