

## **Athelstan C P School Lettings Policy**

### **Adoption**

The Governing Body of Athelstan Primary School at their meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

### **Introduction**

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring the efficient use of the school's premises and making them available for use by the local community.

However, the overriding aim of the Governing Body is to support the school in providing the best possible education for its pupils, the promotion of equality and opportunity and the community cohesion of the local area. Any hiring out of the premises to outside organisations will be considered with this in mind.

### **Definition of a Hire Arrangement**

A hire arrangement may be defined as:

“Any use of the school buildings or grounds by parties other than the school and its partners. This may be a community group (such as a local football team) or a commercial organisation (such as a local “Weight Watchers” branch).”

The following activities fall within the day to day business of the school and are not considered to be hire arrangements.

- Governing body meetings
- Extra-curricular activities arranged by the school for pupils
- Parents meetings
- PTA meetings

The costs arising from these uses are therefore a legitimate charge against the school's delegated budget.

### **Types of Hire Arrangements**

The Governing Body has agreed to define hire arrangements under the following categories:

- **School Hire Arrangements** for activities for pupils or their parents/carers that provide educational benefit to pupils that the school wishes to subsidise;
- **Community Hire Arrangements** for other community activities which should be made on the basis of full cost recovery; and
- **Commercial Hire Arrangements** will be charged on a cost plus an income margin for the school.

### **Hire Arrangement Times, Available Facilities and Equipment**

The following times, facilities and equipment available are agreed as follows:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Area to be hired</b>
3pm-6pm (inc 9am-3pm)	Hall Classroom School pitch
6pm-9pm	Hall Classroom
School holidays	Hall Classroom School pitch

Variations to these facilities and times will be subject to the approval of the head teacher or Chair of Governors.

### **Priority for Hire Arrangements**

Being mindful of the needs of the local area, the Governing Body has undertaken an assessment of local needs. This information has been used to determine the priorities for hire arrangements. The following hire arrangements are especially encouraged:

- Educational activities open to school pupils and their families
- Recreational activities open to school pupils and their families
- Activities organised by local community groups for the benefit of the local community
- Hire arrangements to parents attached to the school / people living in the local community / voluntary organisations / women's groups / disability groups / low income groups / children's groups / youth groups etc

The following activities are not considered appropriate for hire arrangements as they are either well provided for in the local area, are not deemed to be compatible with the ethos of the school or are not able to be accommodated within the school's facilities:

- i.e. commercial activities with little potential to generate income or support the school, events selling alcohol or promoting gambling

### **Applications**

Organisations or individuals seeking to hire the school premises should contact The School Business Manager.

Following receipt of an enquiry, the enquirer shall be provided with a Hire Arrangements Information Pack which includes copies of the following:

- i. the School's Hire Arrangements policy;
- ii. the School's Terms and Conditions;
- iii. the Scale of Charges; and
- iv. the application form

All applications for the hire of accommodation must be made on the appropriate application form (H1) and submitted to the Head teacher/Business Manager at least three weeks before the proposed date of the hire arrangement.

Applications from young persons under the age of 18 must include the name, address and signature of the guarantor who shall be over the age of 18.

The person signing the application form will be considered to be the Hirer and in doing so will be in acceptance of the terms and conditions of the hire arrangement.

A record of all enquiries shall be kept on file.

The Head teacher /Business Manager will decide on the application with consideration to:

- The priorities for hire arrangements agreed by Governors and set out in the school's hire arrangements policy
- The availability of the facilities and staff
- The school's equal opportunities, health and safety, child protection policies

- The health and safety considerations such as numbers of users, type of activity, qualifications of instructors etc.

Once a hire arrangement has been approved, a letter of confirmation will be sent to the Hirer.

The Hirer will be invoiced for the cost of the hire arrangement in accordance with the Governing Body's current scale of charges. We will seek payment in advance in order to reduce any possible bad debts and/or a deposit to cover damage. A guarantee card will be required to support cheques wherever possible. An official receipt will be issued for all payments received. All hire arrangement fees received will be paid into the school's bank account. The income and expenditure relating to hire arrangements shall be clearly recorded by the school and reported under the guidelines for Consistent Financial Reporting. The Head teacher on behalf of the Governing Body has the right to refuse an application and no hire arrangement shall be regarded as "booked" until approval has been given in writing and payment received in full. The reason for refusals shall be recorded on the application form and fully explained to the enquirer.

### **Charges**

Whilst recognising that the School has a statutory duty to ensure that it does not suffer a net loss in hiring out accommodation, the Governors seek to set a scale of charges at a reasonable level that is not unduly onerous for those organisations within the community that operate on a voluntary basis.

Charges are set out in the Schedule of Charges.

The scale of charges shall be reviewed annually by the Governing Body for implementation with effect from 1 April of that year. The details of current charges shall be provided in advance of any hire arrangement being agreed and users shall be given 28 days' notice in writing of any variation to charges.

For the purpose of charging, the head teacher or Business Manager is/are empowered to determine to which group any particular individual or organisation belongs. They are also able to offer any discounts or agree a subsidy for any hire arrangements, as they deem appropriate. The basis of charging will be determined by the purpose for which the hire arrangement is arranged.

The charges payable shall be those applying at the time of the hiring and not at the time of application.

The school reserves the right to require a deposit over and above the hiring charge that equates to 25% of the hire 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 costs for cleaning, caretaking or other expenses. Within 14 days of the end of the hire arrangement the deposit shall be refunded to the Hirer subject to any deductions that may be made for loss or damage to school premises/equipment.

The school is constrained by law to apply value added tax to all transactions where this is appropriate. The hire arrangement of rooms for non-sporting activities is exempt from VAT whereas sports hire arrangements are subject to VAT.

The minimum hire period shall be one hour.

The school will seek to recover any cost incurred by the school that is unavoidable and results directly from the cancellation of a hire arrangement. The timescale and charges for cancellations are set out in the Terms and Conditions of Use.

### **Management of Hire Arrangements**

The Governing Body has delegated day-to-day responsibility for hire arrangements to the Head teacher in accordance with the Governing Body's policy. Where appropriate, the Head

teacher may delegate all or part of this responsibility, such as security, child protection, etc to other members of staff, whilst still retaining overall responsibility for the hire arrangements process.

If the Head teacher has any concern about whether a particular request for a hire arrangement is appropriate or not, he will consult with the Chair of Governors.

The school should ensure that the terms of any contract for hire arrangements such as sports activities, theatre groups, cubs and scouts, etc that will require the contractor to employ staff or use volunteers to work with, or provide services for children, regardless of whether they attend the school or not, also requires the contractor to adopt and implement the measures described in this guidance. They shall also monitor the contractor's compliance. An annual report on hire arrangements will be delivered to the Governing Body and will include information on users, finance, incidents and accidents, enquiries and any hire arrangements refused.

### **Security**

The Head teacher has delegated authority to determine the security risk for each hire arrangement and shall be responsible for allocating a continuous security presence or other control measure.

Entrance to the school shall be via [the main entrance which will be opened by the school at the agreed time. For security reasons, the school keys shall not be available to the Hirer.

The Hirer must use only that area of the premises hired and must observe any instructions given by the School concerning the areas available and unavailable.

The Hirer shall not have access to the school's landline telephone and shall be required to have access to their own acquired mobile phone for emergencies.

### **Conduct of Users**

The Hirer shall be present at all times during the hire and shall be responsible for the maintenance of good order; special attention shall be given to:

- The behaviour of those in attendance;
- The interests of residents in the neighbourhood so that they are not disturbed or caused any inconvenience;
- Other functions being held elsewhere on school premises so that they are not interfered with;
- All those in attendance vacating the premises in an orderly manner and by the finishing time as stated on the application form.

Smoking is not allowed within the school's perimeter.

Animals, other than Guide Dogs, are not permitted anywhere on the school premises except with the express approval of the Governing Body.

### **Indemnity and Insurance**

Neither North Yorkshire County Council nor the school shall be liable for any injury or damage to persons or property upon its premises (so far as they are legally able to do so) sustained during the hire.

The Hirer shall agree to indemnify North Yorkshire County Council, its employees and agents and the school against all actions, proceedings, claims, damages, awards or costs in respect of loss, damage, death or personal injury during the period of hire or before or after that time unless such death or injury occurs as a result of the negligence or breach of duty of North Yorkshire County Council, the school or their agents or employees.

The Hirer must be covered by public liability insurance policy with a minimum limit of £5 million including damage to the premises and its contents. It shall be necessary to produce documentary evidence of the cover when booking.

The Governing Body may at its discretion waive this requirement where the Hirer is an individual or small informal group of individuals (not using the school buildings for commercial or business purposes) who **do not** fall within the following definition and are not able to obtain public liability insurance: Members of any club, association or society which operates by subscription or entry fee; Any charity or individual organisation, carrying on business with a view to profit.

### **Cancellation**

The Governors may end a booking arrangement by giving the User three months written notice to expire at any time.

The Governors may end the agreement immediately by notice given by them:

1. If at any time any payment due remains unpaid for more than 28 days after becoming due
2. If the user fails to remedy any breach of any conditions as set out in the terms and conditions of hire after being required to remedy such breach by 28 days' notice in writing
3. If the User breaches any of the conditions as set out in the terms and conditions of hire which in the opinion of the Governors is incapable of being remedied and the Governors state this in a notice given by them
4. In extreme cases the Governors may terminate this agreement summarily without notice if it has been shown that the User has not ensured that suitable arrangements are in place with regard to the safeguarding of children, vulnerable adults and child protection in line with the requirements of current legislation and any North Yorkshire County Council safeguarding procedures.

The school shall not be held liable or be required to pay compensation for any loss sustained as a result of or in any way out of the cancellation of the hire.

If the Hirer, after the acceptance of a confirmed booking, cancels their booking 10 or more working days before the date of the booking, the full fee and deposit shall be refunded to the Hirer. If less than 10 working days' notice is given, only 50% of deposit shall be returned. If less than 5 working days' notice is given by the Hirer, there shall be no refund of the deposit. The school can, at their own discretion, overrule these in exceptional circumstances.

The school will refund any sum paid if cancellation is undertaken by the school. Refunds paid will be in part and will take into account any necessary admin fees associated with the cancellation.

### **Appeals Procedure**

If a Hirer has a hire arrangement application rejected or agreement withdrawn they have the right to appeal to the Governing Body.

The appeal should be made in writing and will be presented at the next full meeting of the Governing Body.

The Hirer will be informed of any action and/or decision taken by the Governing Body. The Governing Body's decision is final.

## **Complaints Procedure**

If a Hirer is dissatisfied with any aspect of the service they have received, they should at the earliest opportunity attempt to resolve this with the staff at the school. Every effort will be made to resolve disputes between parties quickly and effectively.

In the event of a dispute, the complainant should proceed as follows:

1. The relevant member of staff should be contacted to try to resolve the problem.
2. If the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily, the Head teacher should be contacted.
3. If the matter remains unresolved, the complaint must be submitted in writing to the Head teacher.
4. Where the Head teacher has failed to satisfy the complainant, the Governing Body (or a committee or an individual governor where delegated to do so) may review the case.

Having exhausted the steps above, all unresolved disputes or differences shall be referred to a single arbitrator who shall be determined by the school's Governing Body.

## **Policy Review**

This policy is due for review in March 2016

## **Value Added Tax Regulations**

In accordance with current Value Added Tax regulations, the supply of sports facilities for playing any sport or participating in physical recreation normally incurs standard rated VAT of 20%. However, in certain circumstances organisations may be eligible for a VAT exemption for use of the following facilities:

- Sports pitches
- Swimming pools
- Sports halls
- Sports courts
- Sports equipment
- Gymnasiums
- Assembly halls

### **The supply of facilities for sporting activities can be exempt if all of the following criteria are met:**

1. It is for a series of 10 or more periods of any duration;
2. Each period is for the same activity and at the same place,
3. The interval between periods is never less than one day or more than 14 days.
4. The fee for the hire arrangement relates to the whole series of sessions and is evidenced by a formal Hire arrangements contract issued by the Hire arrangements Service;
5. The use of facilities is exclusive to the customer or is distinct or separate area/facilities;
6. The customer is a school, club, association, or organisation representing clubs and associations and meets the criteria of an eligible body as determined by the HMRC; and
7. The activity taking place is a qualifying activity (list available upon request)

### **The conditions governing these special arrangements are as follows:**

- The minimum interval between periods of one day is a strict 24 hours e.g. if a session is booked from 7pm to 8pm one day, it is not possible for the next session to start prior to 7pm the following day without invalidating the VAT exemption.

- There must be clear evidence of a formal agreement, which must be in place prior to the commencement of the first session in a series of hire arrangements.
- Any extra charges for extended or additional sessions not in the original agreement will incur standard rated VAT at 20%.
- The formal agreement offers customers the option to pay in advance of the activity. Annual bookings for term time only use will be charged in advance/arrears of the term less VAT providing all the criteria are met and providing that there are 10 occasions booked in each term, otherwise VAT will be chargeable;
- If payment in advance is made, there will be no refund unless the sessions are cancelled due to circumstances outside of the control of the solely liable person— please see cancellation policy.
- If payment in arrears is made and a refund is given due to the customer cancelling or varying the length of any sessions then the whole hire arrangement (or term, if an annual term time only booking is made) becomes liable for standard rated VAT at 20%
- Previous qualification for VAT exemption will not be taken into account for new bookings and each application will be assessed via the above legislative criteria

## **Terms and Conditions for Use of School Premises**

All groups/organisations that use the premises are required to read these terms and conditions and agree to abide by them. This terms and conditions document will be signed by the Chair of Governors at the School and the Hirer/nominated person from the hiring group/organisation.

### **Interpretation**

‘The School’ means the Governing Body of the School, its employees and agents.

‘The Hirer’ is the organisation or individual with whom the school is contracting.

### **Purpose of Use**

1. The accommodation shall only be used for the purposes and within the hours stated on the application, as confirmed by the School. The Hirer shall be responsible for ensuring these conditions of occupation are observed and that there is no interference with the normal activities of the school.
2. The Hirer shall not assign or sublet the whole or any part of the benefit of this agreement.
3. No interference is to be made with school property/equipment/premises which do not form part of the hire arrangement.
4. Nothing in this agreement shall create a tenancy.

### **Access**

5. The Governing Body or its representative has access to the areas subject to hire for the purpose of inspection.

### **Health and Safety**

6. The Hirer must comply with all laws relating to the premises and the occupation and use of the premises by the Hirer including but not limited to Health and Safety legislation.
7. The Hirer is responsible for the effective supervision of the arrangements and activities in the premises during the period of hire and for the prevention of disorderly behaviour so as to

ensure that no nuisance or annoyance arises to the occupiers of adjoining premises or neighbouring residents and shall behave reasonably at all times.

8. The school fire, emergency and evacuation procedures shall be forwarded to the Hirer (form H2) and it is the Hirer's responsibility to ensure that the whole party are aware of these procedures. The Hirer shall be required to take any precautions necessary to ensure the safety of those attending the period of hire, including ensuring the means of escape from fire are not blocked or impeded.

9. It is the Hirer's responsibility to ensure that there is someone present who is suitably qualified to deliver first aid in the event of an emergency.

10. The Hirer shall immediately inform the school of any emergency, accident or serious incident that occurs on the school premises. This shall be done in person and may require the applicant telephoning the Head teacher or the Premises Manager. The Hirer shall be responsible for reporting to the Health and Safety Executive any accident that arises from activities that it organises.

11. Hirers providing services to children, whether pupils at the school or others, must have policies and procedures in place to ensure children's safety, and must provide evidence of these to the school as required, i.e. Safeguarding Policy and Use of Mobile Phone Policy, CRB/ISA checks.

#### **Payment of Hire Charges and Deposit**

12. Hire charges shall be due and payable 14 days from the date of the invoice.

13. The school reserves 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 expense.

14. Failure to appear for a hire arrangement shall result in the cost of the booking being levied.

15. Whether or not the option to hire is actually exercised, payment must be made. For example, if the Hirer makes and pays in advance for a ten consecutive week booking but only uses the premises for eight weeks, the full charge for ten evenings is payable. There shall be no refund unless the reason for cancellation is due to school commitments / out of the control of the user group.

#### **Responsibility of the Hirer for Good Order and Safety**

16. The Hirer shall be responsible for any damage to the school property, equipment or buildings caused by them or their guests. The Hirer must report any such damage to the school immediately. The Hirer shall repay to the school, on demand, the cost of re-instating or replacing any part of the premises or any property on the premises which shall be damaged, destroyed, stolen or removed during the period of hire or prior or subsequent thereto if in relation to or by reason of the hiring. Any such costs will be in addition to the specified hire arrangements charges.

17. All preparatory and clearing away time must be accounted for in the period applied for. Should the booking overrun, the Hirer shall be charged at the hourly rate for every hour or part thereof over and above the agreed times.

18. The Hirer shall ensure that all accommodation is left in a clean and tidy condition at the end of the hire arrangement. Using litterbins and recycling facilities as appropriate will help this.



19. The Hirer must obtain express permission from the school to leave any equipment on the premises. Where permission is granted, the Hirer is responsible for any equipment they leave on the premises and shall ensure that such equipment is in good repair and after use, safely stowed away. Items no longer required by the Hirer, or deemed by the school/North Yorkshire County Council to be unsafe or beyond repair or else unsafely stored on the premises shall be promptly removed by the Hirer on demand. If such request is not complied with by the Hirer within [insert timescale], the items may be disposed of by the school/North Yorkshire County Council and the Hirer shall reimburse the school/North Yorkshire County Council for any expense incurred as a result.

20. The school shall not be responsible for any article brought or left in any part of the premises, or theft or loss of, or damage to vehicles parked in any car park provided.

21. The Hirer must ensure that all privately owned electrical equipment has a certificate of safety (Portable Appliance Test) from a qualified electrical engineer.

22. The Hirer shall comply with any reasonable instructions given by the Head teacher, premises Manager or other member of the school staff.

23. Alcohol is not allowed to be sold on the premises unless prior permission is given by the school and a licence obtained by the Hirer. Illegal drugs are not to be brought onto or consumed on the school premises.

24. There shall not be brought onto the premises anything of an inflammable, dangerous or noxious character.

25. Where the premises do not have a Public Entertainment Licence the Hirer shall be responsible for obtaining such a licence. Any fees for such licences are to be paid for by the Hirer.

26. The premises may not be used for games of chance, other than bingo, unless permission has been granted by the Governors in writing.

27. Smoking is not allowed on the school premises at any time.

28. Animals, other than Guide Dogs, are not permitted on the school premises without the prior written consent of the school.

29. The Hirer shall not make any alteration or addition to the premises and shall not affix any items to the premises.

### **Conditions of Hire Specific to the Sports Hall/Gymnasium**

30. Outdoor footwear must not be worn in the sports hall/gymnasium. Non-marking footwear must be worn at all times.

31. No school games equipment may be used without permission. Any permitted use of sports or gymnasium equipment will be reliant upon an adult with recognised qualifications being personally in charge at all times of use.

32. The Hirer may bring their own equipment on to the premises at their own risk provided that it will not cause damage to the sports hall. The Governors reserve the right to inspect such equipment and to refuse to allow its use if, in the view of the Governors or the Head of PE, it constitutes a Health and Safety risk or a hazard to the fabric of the building.

33. Any costs incurred by the school in remedying any damage caused by the Hirer or by the use of their own equipment shall be recharged in full.

### **Conditions of Hire Specific to School Kitchens**

34. The use of any kitchen equipment is prohibited without prior consent of the school. In the case of consent being given, a member of the school's kitchen staff shall be present during the hire of the facility to ensure that the equipment is used appropriately.
35. The use by the Hirer of any food stocks held by the school for the provision of a school meal service is not permitted.
36. The Hirer has received all necessary food safety training as required by law.
37. The kitchen premises shall be left in a clean and hygienic condition after the hire.
38. Any costs incurred by the school in remedying any damage caused by the Hirer or by the use of their own equipment shall be recharged in full.

### **Conditions of Hire Specific to Playing Fields during the Football/Rugby Season**

39. The length of time booked for the use of a pitch must include preparation time, full playing time including breaks in play for half time and time to clear the facilities.
40. During the football season, the condition of each pitch will be carefully monitored on a daily basis so as to determine as early as possible whether a pitch can continue to be played.
41. The school shall ensure that pitches are marked out for the appropriate sport for which the facilities are being used and that all equipment such as goal posts conform to health and safety standards. The school shall ensure that the grass is at a suitable length for the sporting activity to take place.
42. The decision to cancel the use of a pitch, and so a hire arrangement, rests with the Head teacher/Business Manager and that decision shall be final and cannot be changed irrespective of the view of any referee. The Hirer will abide by the decision of the Head teacher/Business Manager and shall not permit their members to use the facilities once a cancellation has been notified. Any unauthorised use shall result in the termination of the hire arrangement agreement permanently.

### **Advertising**

49. No advertising shall be permitted except without the prior written consent of the school.

### **Video Recording**

50. No video recordings may be made unless prior permission has been obtained. The School must be satisfied that the proper approvals have been received by the Hirer from all of the appropriate authorities, organisations and companies before that permission can be granted.

### **Cancellation**

51. The school reserves the right to cancel the booking at any time without notice and without assigning any reason, but will endeavour to give as much notice as possible. Neither North Yorkshire County Council nor the school will be liable for the provision of alternative accommodation or be liable for any compensatory payment. In such circumstances, the school shall refund any monies paid in respect of the hire arrangement so cancelled but shall not be responsible for any loss or expenditure whatsoever in relation to the hire arrangement which the Hirer may have incurred or be liable to pay. The school reserves the right to refuse

any application for hire as it may deem fit, or withdraw permission for any hire arrangement at any time.

52. If the facilities/equipment hired are not fully available for the duration of the booking or if the booked activity is prevented from taking place due to circumstances that were not informed to the Hirer prior to commencement of the hire arrangement, the school shall refund the monies paid for that booking.

53. If the Hirer, after the acceptance of a confirmed booking, cancels their booking 10 or more working days before the date of the booking, the full fee and deposit shall be refunded to the Hirer. If less than 10 working days' notice is given, only 50% of deposit shall be returned. If less than 5 working days' notice is given by the Hirer, there shall be no refund of the deposit. The school can, at their own discretion, overrule these in exceptional circumstances.

54. The applicant shall complete all relevant paperwork in a true and accurate way. False information may lead to an application being terminated.

AGREED by the School and the Hirer on the date set out in the Hire Arrangements Contract letter

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Signed by The Chair of Governors of Athelstan School

Andrew Parmenter

Signed by K O'Donnell Head teacher

Date 10/03/15