



St Augustine's Catholic Primary
School, Wilman Road,
Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9AL



LETTINGS POLICY

FINANCE AND PREMISES COMMITTEE

DATE REVIEWED: JULY 2015
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: JULY 2016

The Governors of St Augustine's Catholic Primary School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and engage with staff in policy and practice developments and proactively encourages feedback.

Recommended by the Finance and Premises Committee on

Signed Chair of Finance and Premises Committee

Agreed by Governing body on

Signed Chair of Governors

Lettings Policy

Philosophy:

Provided there is no interruption, or curtailment of, school use of the premises, part of the school buildings and grounds may be let to outside bodies after the end of the school day, at weekends and during the holidays, in order to:

- Raise income for the school;
- Better integrate the school into the local community;
- Familiarise individuals with the school, who may become pupils or their parents;
- Satisfy some of the needs of local individuals, groups and organisations;
- Increase the use of facilities that are under used by the school.

Implementation:

Bookings are made through the representative of the school, as authorised by the Governing Body, and confirmed in writing.

- School and PTA activities have priority;
- Outline charges are set by the Headteacher/Governors and reviewed annually;
- Specific charges are set at the time of the agreement;
- The VAT liability of the letting is determined at the time of the agreement;
- Payment is in advance for single lettings;
- Payment is in instalments for a series of sports facilities lettings that comply with VAT exemption regulations;
- The agreement should be updated and reviewed at least annually;
- A diary is kept covering all school, PTA and outside use of the premises and grounds after school, in evenings, at weekends and in holidays.

Users sign an agreement that covers:

- Terms and conditions relating to type of and length of use;
- Cancellation;
- Damage;
- Insurance;
- Charging;
- Restrictions on use;
- Licensing for the sale of alcohol, or public performances;
- Parking.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The school authorised representative is responsible for the construction and regular update of the lettings diary.

- The PTA secretary and individual teachers are responsible for informing the authorised school representative a term in advance, of events outside teaching hours, which will use the school premises;

- Opening and closing the school is undertaken by the caretaker, or by prior agreement with an authorised member of the staff;
- Supervision during the letting is the responsibility of the user. The user is also responsible for the security of the area of the school being used;
- When a risk assessment is completed by the user or the school, in relation to the premises or activity or equipment involved, the user must ensure any controls are complied with;
- Post-letting checks are made by the caretaker and reported to the school authorised representative;
- The authorised representative will ensure that excess wear and tear on the buildings and equipment is avoided and will follow up unsatisfactory lettings to resolve issues;
- The Headteacher will apply the criteria agreed by the Governing Body and consult the Chair of the Finance and Premises Committee on requests for bookings which do not meet them or where there is a potential conflict of interest.

The Governing Body, with the advice from the Headteacher will:

- Balance the desire to generate income against the desire to support “worthy” groups within the community, agree the criteria to be used when deciding which groups are to be allowed to use the premises and consider requests for bookings against those criteria;
- Take a positive approach to enhancing learning opportunities for the whole school community through promoting community use of the school;
- Ensure that use by external organisations does not degrade the standards of the facilities to the extent that they are no longer suitable for use by pupils;
- Consider issues of political balance;
- Consider the implications of all requests received for the health, safety and security of pupils and staff;
- Consider the implications for workload of all staff of any decisions it makes.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

Lettings should be evaluated to assess the additional income raised for the school, less the cost of any reasonable wear and tear to the furniture and fabric of the school, made during lets and costs of additional heating and caretaker’s payments.

The Finance and Premises Committee will receive reports from the Headteacher on a yearly basis of the schedule of the use of the school outside the school day, the number of groups involved and the net profit from such activities.

Issues that required intervention by the Headteacher will be noted, together with the action taken and the outcome.

The Finance and Premises Committee will consider whether the additional use of the school premises is achieving the purposes set out at the start of the policy.

In the case of children or vulnerable adults the school representative will require to see an up-to-date DBS enhanced check, together with photographic proof of identity, in line with the School's safeguarding procedure, before consenting to the 'hire'.



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Conditions of use for a letting

Use of School premises for a letting must be agreed in advance and confirmed in writing by both the user and the authorised representative of the school. The agreement will include the fee, appropriate VAT and any other charges payable. It must be recognised that school use of the premises takes priority and that there may be occasions when arrangements have to be changed (where possible these will be advised at the time agreement is reached).

The school reserves the right to refuse a letting or cancel any letting at any time, without giving any reason. If the user wishes to cancel a specific booking or set of bookings, five clear working days notice must be given of the cancellation, in which case the school will charge a cancellation fee of a quarter the total fees due. If less than five days notice is given, the whole of the fees may be charged by the school. When regular weekly/monthly bookings have been made, cancellation will result in a negotiated fee according to the opportunities available for re-letting the facility.

Standard rated VAT is payable on lettings of sports facilities unless the letting is to a school or club that meets with the ten sessions rule and more generally the VAT regulations in full, in which case the lettings will be exempt from VAT. Therefore a refund for a cancellation may break the series and result in VAT being chargeable on all the lettings. Full details of the VAT regulations are available from the HMRC website in the Internal Guidance Manual for Land and Property section 18.

Damage or loss of any kind sustained to the premises, fixtures and/or fittings, furniture and/or other chattels therein arising out of or in connection with use of the school shall be made good at the expense of the user within one month by the school or, by agreement, by the user and to the satisfaction of the school.

The users are required to make arrangements for suitable insurance cover (currently a minimum of £5 million for each and every claim for public liability) with a reputable company in respect of claims which might be made against them by a third party for accidental injury including death or accidental loss, or damage to property arising out of, or in consequence of, the letting and to cover the school, and must produce proof of the policy before the letting is contracted.

However, if non-commercial users are unable to provide insurance cover which meets the council's requirements, cover must be arranged through the KCC Hirers Liability Policy, for which a contribution

towards the cost of the KCC Hirers' Liability Policy equal to 3.5% of the total hire charge will be levied in addition to the hire charge itself. The user will be responsible for the first £350 of each and every property damage claim.

The charge for a letting payable by the user includes an amount to cover payment for standard opening and closing caretaking duties and may include additional duties if agreed prior to the letting. The user is expected to adhere strictly to the agreed times or, subject to a caretaker being available, be prepared to pay additional overtime.

It is the user's sole responsibility to control entry of all visitors at the external entrance allocated and to ensure that only those people known to them are allowed access to school premises. The entrance and any other external doors that are unlocked must be controlled by responsible adults at all time during the period of the letting. On completion of the letting a check must be carried out to ensure that all windows have been shut and secured, and all visitors have left the premises.

The user shall not cause or permit any nuisance or disturbance to other occupiers or users at the school or to occupiers of neighbouring properties.

The hirer (whether an individual or an organisation) is responsible for ensuring all adequate safety measures are taken for the duration of the letting period.

The user should be aware of the appropriate action to be taken in the event of fire or other emergency. They should know where extinguishers are located and how to use them, how to obtain assistance from the emergency services and the location of fire exits.

The Health and Safety at Work, etc Act, 1974 (as amended) imposes duties not only on employers in respect of their employees but also on persons having control over places of work or places where plant or substances are used and on anyone who by virtue of a contract has an obligation in relation to such a place. The duties are to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable, that the facilities and means of access are safe and without risk to health. Users must comply with the school health and safety policy, a copy of which is available on request.

If agreement is given for the use of the school meals facilities/canteen, KCC regulations must be observed.

All rubbish, empty containers, crates, etc must be removed from the premises by the user immediately after the letting has taken place and before the caretaker locks up. Furniture and equipment is to be left as found unless other arrangements have been agreed with the school's authorised representative or caretaker.

The use of materials for preparing floors for dances and the wearing of shoes likely to damage floors, especially in any hall and any gymnasium, is prohibited.

The premises shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which agreement has been granted nor shall any areas of, or furniture/equipment in, the school but not included in the letting agreement be used without express permission; in such cases an extra fee may be payable.

The user must have written permission from the school before arranging for alcoholic drinks to be consumed on the premises. Under The Licensing Act 2003 the users are responsible for Temporary Event Notices (TENs) to the district/borough council and local police. Alcoholic drink may not be brought onto the premises while students are present and are to be cleared from the premises when the event ends. The user must ensure that all appropriate authorities are in place for any auctions, raffles, lotteries or gambling.

No public performance of a play, cinematography exhibition, public dancing, singing, music or other public entertainment of the like shall be performed in or close to the premises unless any necessary licence for the same shall first have been obtained from the appropriate authority and all necessary measures taken to fulfil the conditions of the licence. It may be that KCC blanket PRS (Performing rights Society) or PPL (Phonographic Performance Ltd) Licences will cover some situations but this aspect must be cleared in advance with the school. Temporary Event Notices (TENs) are required not only for any sale/supply of alcohol, but also for regulated entertainment (eg. live and recorded music and performance of dance) and late night refreshments.

Vehicles should not be allowed on the playing fields and no parking which restricts the caretakers' or emergency services access will be permitted. Consideration of separating vehicles and pedestrians on site should be considered where the activity poses additional risk. Parking on the roadway where double yellow lines are displayed is not permitted. Control of parking is the responsibility of the user. No responsibility can be taken by the school for any damage to vehicles sustained whilst in the school grounds.

No landlord and tenant relationship shall be created.

No smoking is allowed anywhere within the school building or grounds.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR HIRE OF PREMISES

SECTION A - TO BE COMPLETED BY HIRER AND SUBMITTED TO HEADTEACHER

Name of School _____

Name of Hirer _____

Name and Address of Applicant _____

_____ Telephone No _____

Use to be made of Premises _____

Maximum Number of Persons _____

Accommodation to be used _____

With/Without Heating (delete as required)

Period of use:

Day and Dates _____

Times _____

Insurance required YES/NO (delete as appropriate)

If no, please submit a copy of your policy to the School

Risk Assessment attached YES/NO (delete as appropriate)

Caretaking Requirements

- a) None
- b) To open and close premises only (½ hour to open and ½ hour to close will be applied unless otherwise requested).
- c) For duration of the letting
- d) Other - (Please state times) _____

On behalf of the organisation referred to, I agree to pay the charges shown overleaf, upon receipt of the invoice, and to accept the 'Conditions of Hire' which are attached.

Date _____ Hirer _____

SECTION B TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEADTEACHER

AMOUNT PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT OF INVOICE

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT
Sub Total		
VAT Total		
Account Total		

Approval is given for the use of the school facilities as above.

Date _____ Headteacher _____

Once signed by both parties this application forms the Hire Agreement between the Hirer named overleaf and St Augustine's Catholic Primary School.