



Charging Policy 2015

Charging Policy

1 Rationale

With the emphasis upon academic standards, it is important to remember that extra activities that take place inside and outside of school hours are extremely important to the enhancement of pupil's education. This policy is intended to record the procedures with regard to the charging for and remission of charges for school activities to enable pupils to continue to enjoy the benefits of organised and educationally inspiring experiences beyond the classroom.

- 1.1 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 some individual or small-group music tuition and swimming.

2 Voluntary contributions

- 2.1 When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

- 2.2 If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

- 2.3 However where an activity will not be able to take place without sufficient funds being collected, this will be explained at the planning phase. It is recognised that in some cases this may lead to an activity being cancelled. If a trip is cancelled for this reason, any money paid for the trip will be refunded.

3 Residential visits

- 3.1 If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. We do however raise money to subsidise the travel expenses.

4 Music tuition

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

- 4.2** There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. We make a charge for these lessons, but parents in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5 Swimming

- 5.1** The school organises swimming lessons for children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We ask parents to make a small donation towards the use of the pool. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part.

6. After School Clubs

- 6.1** We run a variety of after school clubs and make a small charge to cover the cost of refreshments and equipment.

7 School minibus

- 7.1** We normally charge if children are transported in the minibus to an extra-curricular activity. However, we use these charges only to cover the expenses of the trip, and not to make a profit.

8 Remission of charges for school activities.

- 8.1** The governing body has agreed that the following remissions be made:

In view of a significant number of parents receiving income support, working families tax credit, disability working allowance or income-based job seekers allowance, it is not financially possible to allow wholesale remissions, however consideration will be given to individual written applications, bearing in mind that activities will be planned well in advance so that the financial and educational implications are properly addressed. Parents will be fully informed over any payments they are invited to make.

With these agreements in place all pupils should be able to enjoy the benefits of well planned and well organised experiences beyond the classroom.

9 Monitoring and review

- 9.1** This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be reviewed annually.