



CHARGES FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES - SCHOOL POLICY

The Education Reform Act 1996 and revised guidance, February, 2009, established the basic principle that the education provided by any maintained school for its registered pupils should be free of charge. This basic underlying principle requires that there should be no school admission charge and no charge for any related activity which takes place during school time. Exceptions to this general statement are as follows:

- (1) Individual tuition and group tuition in playing a musical instrument is charged for provided that it is not part of the National Curriculum or the syllabus leading to prescribed Public Examination;
- (2) For all residential visits deemed to be within school hours, or part of the National Curriculum or part of the Syllabus for the prescribed Public Examination, a charge for board and lodging will be made, except for families, either now or during their child's life, in receipt of:-
 - Income Support
 - Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
 - support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - Child tax Credit, provided that they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of not more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
 - the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
 - an income related employment and support allowance introduced on 27.10.2008
- (3) In the case of siblings being in the same year group, no discount will be given to the first sibling, taking part in residential visits, but subsequent siblings will receive a 20% discount.
- (4) Optional visits or activities occurring outside of school hours may be charged for in full.

The value of a school visit which is integrated within the curriculum is accepted educationally as being sound and good practice, offering the children a variety of experiences. Over the past years school has organised many visits and will continue to do so in the future. However, financial educational resources available for such visits are very limited and therefore each visit must be cost effective.

Within the legislation it is possible for schools to ask for voluntary contributions from parents.

The Governing Body has therefore approved the following:-

- (1) Voluntary contributions can be invited from parents towards the cost of school activities which are related to the life and work of the school. Such contributions will be genuinely voluntary and no child whose parents feel unable to contribute will be treated differently from the rest.
- (2) Parents not wishing to make a voluntary contribution in whole or part, but wishing their child to be included, must make the fact known directly to the Head who will treat any such approach in strictest confidence.
- (3) School visits and activities will be planned in advance and, if sought, voluntary contributions will usually be invited through individual letters to parents. The letter, asking for support, will outline the proposed activity/visit, cost, educational value and its relationship to the school syllabus.
- (4) If insufficient voluntary contributions are received and the activity/trip is considered by the Head not to be financially viable, then it will be cancelled and any monies received will be returned.

In line with the school's disciplinary code compulsory charges may be made by the school for replacement of broken windows or fittings, defaced or damaged text books or any other damage or loss caused by a pupil. The school is empowered to recover this loss and resultant costs as a civil debt. Unpaid charges legally recoverable will also be recouped, together with resultant costs, as a civil debt. This policy will be included in the brochure produced for parents.

Any amendments to this policy will be made if and when necessary.

Chair of Governors:

Reviewed:

Annually

Last Review Date:

September 2015