

CHARGING POLICY

Introduction

- All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

Voluntary Contributions

- 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.

- The 1988 Education Act draws a distinction between the term 'charges' which are considered to be an obligatory cost and 'voluntary contributions' which are self-explanatory.
- Subsidies from various sources e.g. School Fund, voluntary organisations, will be considered to cover deficits.
- Whenever possible, the school will give sufficient notice to allow parent/carers to pay by instalments.
- 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 on 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.
- The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:
 - Visits to museums
 - Sporting activities
 - Outdoor adventure activities
 - Visits to or by a theatre company
 - School trips
 - Musical events
 - Transport 3

Residential Visits

- If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time (more than 50%), 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. Parents of children who receive free school meals are offered the option to make a reduced payment.

Music Tuition

- All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.
- 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. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

Swimming

- The school organises swimming lessons for all children during one year of key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We therefore make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part.

Lunchtime / After School Sport and Creative Activities

- The school offers additional activities after school. We reserve the right to make a small charge for these sessions.

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