

## Charging Policy

We believe that all state education should be free. However, there may be times when the school requires parental financial support to provide rich and stimulating experiences which extend the curriculum provision of the school. Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England. This policy is in line with this.

## Charges

As a school we only charge parents for:

- Board and lodgings on a residential visit, unless parents are in receipt of Income Support; Jobseekers Allowance; support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and family income does not exceed £15k; State Pension Credit or an income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27/10/08
- Musical tuition provided by an external provider, ie Solihull Music Service
- Out of school clubs where the provider is external to the school staffing or that require additional equipment or materials additional to the school's resources

These charges do not exceed that of the proportional cost for an individual of the overall cost. Participation in activities that attract these costs are done purely on a voluntary basis, with parents willing to meet the charges.

## Voluntary Contributions

We ask for an annual voluntary contribution from the parents calculated at the beginning of each year to meet the activity costs of trips or external providers. It is made clear that these contributions are purely voluntary and that they form the basis for enriching activities to take place.

These contributions may cover transport, entrance fees and providers. Parents are given the opportunity to make payments in one lump sum or spread the contribution evenly over the year.

No child is excluded from these planned activities if a contribution is not made. However, should there be insufficient contributions made, then the activity may be cancelled. It may be necessary where this is the case to send out notification to parents of the possible cancellation should insufficient contributions be available.

### Remissions

Parents not receiving those benefits mentioned above may make representation to the Head Teacher should they need support in meeting the charges or the contributions. Such support might include a reduced rate or longer payment terms. Such support is at the Head Teacher's discretion.

Should a parent disagree with the Head Teacher's decision, they should write to the Governing Body requesting the decision be reviewed. This will be discussed at either the next Finance Committee or Full Governing Body meeting, whichever is soonest.

### Payment

Payment may be made in the following ways:

- Cash
- Cheque
- Agreed electronic payment

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