

IMPLEMENTATION

During the school day

All activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum plus religious education will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It excludes charges made for teaching an individual pupil or groups of up to four pupils to play a musical instrument at the request of a parent/carer, unless the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by pupils.

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities within the school day which entail additional costs, for example trips out, enrichments days, theatre visits, etc. Without such contributions there is a limit to the number of such days that the school can provide.

In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution.

Optional activities outside the school day

We may charge for optional, extra activities that take place outside the school day, for example clubs. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education.

Residential Visits

Charges will be made for board, lodging, activities and transport. Parents who have difficulty paying should contact the Headteacher to discuss the issue in confidence.

Calculating Charges

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can not.

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

REMISSIONS

In some circumstances, the school may not charge for items or activities. This will be at the discretion of the Governing Board and will depend on the activity in question.

Remissions for Residential Visits

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

- Universal credit in prescribed circumstances
- Income Support

- Income Based 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
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008

Additional considerations

The Governing Board recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end we will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

- where possible we will inform parents in advance of visits and their approximate cost so that parents can plan ahead.
- we have established a system for parents to pay in instalments.

Nothing in this policy statement precludes the Governing Board from inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of providing educational facilities for children.