

ST MARTINS GARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHARGING POLICY



Rationale

The governors at St Martin's Garden Primary School believe that all children have a right to a full, free education of a high quality.

It is also acknowledged that the education service is not sufficiently funded that we can provide everything we would like to without asking for some form of support.

The following guidelines are aimed at ensuring that all members of staff are aware of under which circumstances we can ask for support from parents.

In this policy 'charging' is used to denote circumstances under which a child's parent or carer must pay in order for their child to participate.

The word 'contribution' is used where a parent or carer is asked to contribute the cost of a visit or activity, but will not be denied involvement if a contribution is not forthcoming.

Charging

The governors adhere to national guidelines, in that a parent/carers may only be charged for an activity if the majority of time spent on the activity is outside normal school hours.

At the time of writing, the only activity for which we make a charge is the Y6 residential visit. A child's place on the visit would be at risk if the full amount is not paid.

Parents may in this case request support from The Friends of the School or the school may make an application to a charity on the parents behalf.

Parents will be charged for school property which has been lost or damaged; so replacements can be purchased i.e. Library books, log books.

Contributions

For activities which are part of the curriculum offered by the school, or which fall within the school's normal working day, the school may ask the parent/carers to make a contribution towards the cost of the activity.

The contribution requested should be the cost to the school for each child participating, but no more. The school should not try to make up any anticipated loss on the activity by overcharging. Parents/carers may be warned, however, that the activity may be cancelled if sufficient contributions are not received to cover the costs to the school. The activity will only be cancelled after discussions with the headteacher.

No child will be refused permission to participate in an activity on the sole grounds of making no, or insufficient contribution.

Conclusions

The contents of this policy are designed to enhance the education the school provides, not restrict it.

It is, however, part of the governors' responsibility to ensure that the children at the school are offered the best possible education, and it is the view of the governors that, in order to offer this, the parent/carer needs to be asked at times, to make a contribution towards that.

No child should, however, miss out on opportunities within the school's curriculum because their parent/carer is unwilling or unable to make a contribution.

This policy should ensure that this is the case.

Signed Head Teacher

Signed Chair of Governors

Dated