

Upton Snodsbury C of E First School

SCHOOL CHARGING POLICY

The school wishes to provide for all pupils the best possible educational opportunities available within the funds allocated by the Local Authority. The law states very clearly that education during normal school hours is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents and the school warmly endorses that principle and is committed to upholding the legal requirements.

It is recognised, however, that many educationally valuable activities have been and will continue to be dependent on financial contribution in whole or in part from parents. Without the financial support, the school would find it quite impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of the educational programme provided for pupils. The school's concern is to keep financial contributions to a reasonable minimum and to ensure as far as possible that all children are able to take part, irrespective of their circumstances.

The law recognises that charges may be made to parents in certain defined circumstances - provided that each school has identified the activities for which charges will be made and has explained the basis on which charges may be reduced or waived for certain pupils. The school's policy is as follows:

a) Day Visits

For visits during school time the school will invite a contribution from parents to meet costs. If a visit cannot be funded without voluntary contributions this will be made clear at the outset and a visit may have to be cancelled. For visits outside school time (which are not in respect of the National Curriculum, a syllabus for a prescribed public examination or Religious Education) parents will be charged for all allowable costs. Voluntary contributions and charges will be waived for children whose parents are in receipt of the benefits listed in the *Note and may be waived or reduced for children in other circumstances whose parents make application to the Head.

b) Residential Visits during School Time or outside School Time which are in respect of a part of the National Curriculum, a syllabus for a prescribed public examination, or Religious Education.

The school will invite contributions from parents to meet costs other than children's board and lodgings. If a visit cannot be funded without voluntary contributions this will be made clear at the outset and a visit may have to be cancelled. Parents will be charged for the actual cost of board and lodgings. Charges will be waived for children whose parents are in receipt of the benefits listed in the *Note and may be waived or reduced for children in other circumstances whose parents make application to the Head.

c) Residential Visits outside School Time (and not part of the National Curriculum, a syllabus for a prescribed public examination or Religious Education).

Parents will be charged for the full cost of the visit, including all allowable costs** and board and lodging. Charges may be waived or reduced for children whose parents make application to the Head.

**Allowable costs include:

- (i) The pupil's travel and subsistence costs
- (ii) Materials, books, instruments and other equipment
- (iii) Non-teaching staff
- (iv) Costs of teaching staff where separately engaged under a contract for services for the visit or activity
- (v) Entrance fees to museums, castles, theatres, etc
- (vi) Insurance costs.
- d) Instrumental Music on an Individual Basis
Any tuition provided during school hours is currently charged to parents. Additionally, a charge is made for the hire of the musical instruments used in individual (or small group) tuition. Charges will be waived for children whose parents are in receipt of the benefits listed in the *Note.
- e) Classroom materials

No charge will be made for materials or equipment. However, for certain practical activities (technology, cookery, etc), parents may be invited to provide materials or ingredients. Where parents would like to possess the finished product, the school reserves the right to charge the cost or require the supply of the necessary materials.
- f) The Governors are required to keep their policy under review.

*Note

Waiver will apply, where indicated as available, to those parents who are in receipt of these benefits

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, providing that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by HMRC) does not exceed £15,575 (financial year 2008/09)
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.