

FRITHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Charging Policy

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January 2016
Review January 2019

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Introduction

This charging policy has been compiled in line with DFE requirements and in accordance with the Education Act, 1996.

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

At Frithwood Primary School we recognise the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, trips and sporting events can make towards pupils' personal and social education. We aim to promote and provide all pupils with such activities both as part of a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum both in school and as additional extra-curricular activities. Pupils are provided with the best access to educational opportunities in a variety of ways in order to develop their learning.

Voluntary Contributions

We rely on the goodwill of our parents to make voluntary contributions for all activities involving costs which cannot be met using funds from the School budget. Without these contributions the school would be unable to provide any extra activity or be able to consider activities involving additional charges.

Payment may be made in instalments to cover these additional costs.

In the event of genuine hardship which makes it difficult for pupils to part in an activity, then parents are invited to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. Authorisation of remission will be made by the Head Teachers in consultation with the Chair of Governors. This money will be obtained from other funds and all cases will be treated in the strictest confidence.

If there are insufficient funds raised by voluntary contributions to cover additional costs of an activity, then the shortfall may be subsidised by school funds. However, the school reserves the right to cancel the event. If the event goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. In accordance with our Equal Opportunities Policy, Frithwood Primary School emphasises that no child will be discriminated against or excluded from any charged activity on the basis of being unable to pay. The school will make every effort to keep all costs to a minimum and will not seek to make profit from any event.

During the school year various fund-raising activities are organised to support specific events. Sponsorship from local businesses will also be sought to support specific projects, e.g. playground equipment, school garden.

Examples of additional activities requiring voluntary contributions

The list is not exhaustive.

- Visits to museums, theatre, galleries
- Events incurring transport costs
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Visitors to school e.g. theatre groups, musicians

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal curriculum; there is no charge for this.

There is a charge for peripatetic individual or group music tuition if it is not part of the curriculum.

Specialist Provision

Charges are made for clubs involving specialist teachers or outside providers, e.g. art, sports clubs.

Charges are also made for our Breakfast and After School clubs (Rise and Shine, Night Owls and Buddies).

Breakages, loss or damage to school equipment/premises

Where school property or premises are damaged as a result of pupils' negligence or behaviour, parents will be invited to pay a contribution to cover whole or part of the cost, e.g. homework diaries, library books.

Remission of charges

The school will charge for specific items such as board and lodging in a residential trip.

Under the school's policy there can be a remission of charges for families in receipt of the following (all subject to government or local authority review):

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- 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; and
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

Parents can request remission of charges from the Head Teacher. All requests will be considered in confidence.

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the SLT.

Approved by the Governing Body Jan 2016
Review January 2019.

