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## CHARGING POLICY

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Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 sets out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England.

The Department of Education (November 2013) advice states that schools cannot charge for:

- admitting pupils to maintained schools
- education is provided during school hours
- education provided outside of school hours if it is part of the national curriculum
- instrumental or vocal tuition for pupils learning individually or in groups
- entry for a public examination

The advice further states that schools can charge for:

- materials, books, instruments or equipment where the child's parent wishes their child to own them
- community facilities
- costs related to wilful breakage and loss of and/or damage to school property e.g. books and equipment;
- costs of day visits to places of interest and value to the children.
- transport costs associated with swimming.
- visiting professional workshops that support curriculum activities

Contributions must be genuinely voluntary, and the pupils of parents who are unable or unwilling to contribute will not be treated any differently from those who do pay. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no feasible way to make up the shortfall, then it must be cancelled.

Payments may not be required in exceptional circumstances and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

On occasions school may invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions to make school funds go further.