

## MEOLS COP HIGH SCHOOL

### CHARGING POLICY

#### Rationale:

The Education Act requires that education mainly during schools hours is free.

#### Purpose:

To ensure the school meets the requirements of the above Act and to be as inclusive for our students as possible.

#### Implementation:

##### Voluntary Contributions

The school may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

- any activity which takes place during school hours
- school equipment
- school funds generally

The school will make every effort to meet the costs either out of school funds, private sponsorship, e.g. from Rotary or fund-raising activities. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then it will be cancelled.

##### Residential Trips

Schools charge for the cost of board and lodging during residential school trips. This cost will not exceed the actual cost of the provision.

Where the trip takes place wholly, or mainly, during school hours children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of these charges:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 (financial year 2013/14).
- Guaranteed State Pension Credit
- Income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

A similar entitlement applies where the trip takes place outside of school hours but it is necessary as part of the national curriculum or forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed examination.

##### Music Tuition

A charge may be made for instrumental and vocal music tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the student's parent. Charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff who provide the tuition. There will be no charge if the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum. No charge will be made in respect of a student who is looked after by a local authority.

##### Public Examinations

No charges are made for entering students for public examinations. However, an examination entry fee may be charged to parents if:

- the examination is on the set list, but the student was not prepared for it at the school
- the examination is not on the set list, but the school arranges for the student to take it
- a student fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing body or local authority originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee

Charges may not be made for any cost associated with preparing a student for an examination. However, charging is allowed for tuition and other costs if a student is prepared outside school hours for an examination that is not set out in regulations.

**Policy applicable to:** **All staff**

**Responsible for policy:** **Headteacher**

**Date Reviewed:** **June 2018**