

## **Policy on Charging**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 All the education we provide during normal school hours is at no charge to pupils. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, with the exception of some individual or small-group music tuition.

### **2 Voluntary contributions**

- 2.1 When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents and carers to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents or carers have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.
- 2.2 If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents and carers have a right to know how each trip is funded, and the school provides this information on request.
- 2.3 The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents and carers. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:
- visits to museums and other local venues;
  - sporting activities which require transport expenses;
  - outdoor adventure activities;
  - visits to or by a theatre company;
  - musical events.

### **3 Residential visits**

- 3.1 If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do suggest a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging, although parents and carers who receive state benefits are exempt from this charge. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through these voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled, and that aspect of the curriculum would have to be covered in other ways.

### **4 Music tuition**

- 4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.
- 4.2 There maybe a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. We may make a charge for these lessons, but parents and carers in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents and carers information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year if any are going to occur.

### **5 Swimming**

- 5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for many of our children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity, but we may ask for a voluntary contribution from parents and carers to cover the cost of transport if used. We use our pupil premium money to support those children who are

entitled to receive support. We inform parents and carers when these lessons are to take place, and we seek the written permission of parents or carers for their children to take part.

## **6 After School Activities/Play schemes**

6.1 The school offers After School clubs and holiday programmes. We make a small charge for these sessions and always seek additional funds from external agencies to support the activities.

## **7 School minibus**

7.1 We normally charge if children are transported in the minibus to an extra-curricular activity. However, we use these charges only to cover the expenses of the trip, and not to make a profit.

## **8 Monitoring and review**

8.1 This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if necessary.

**Policy Agreed: March 2010**

**Policy Reviewed: March 2012 & September 2013**