

CHARGING POLICY

Children may be taken on school visits as part of the curriculum. The following charging policy for visits has been approved by the Governors:

CLASS OR SCHOOL TRIPS

Parents are charged for visits away from school, which involve a cost, but this is a voluntary. No child in the past has been unable to participate because of the cost.

We usually have to pay for theatre companies, visiting speakers, sports coaches etc for extra-curricular activities. When this happens, again we ask for a voluntary contribution to cover these costs. In line with our policy for inclusion, parents should contact the school if this embarrasses them financially.

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils attend an annual residential trip. There is a charge for this which we ask parents to pay. Whilst we try to keep costs to a minimum and subsidise travel, we appreciate that this can seem expensive. We are happy to set up a payment plan to help families budget and we are also able to discuss some financial support for children on an individual basis. We normally request that the deposit amount (in recent years this has been £30.00) is paid by all.

TAKING ITEMS HOME

The Regulations (Section 10 of the Education Act of 1988) allows us to charge for finished items from a lesson which are taken home, such as cakes or models. Governors have agreed that we may ask for a contribution of 50p for each item.

CLUBS

Many of our extra-curricular clubs are run by staff or volunteers and are free to the children who wish to attend. Sometimes however, we have to employ the services of professionals e.g. pottery, judo and football and as a result these are charged to parents. Attendance is voluntary and parents can therefore choose if they wish for their child(ren) to participate.

We have, in the past, entered a choir into the event at the O2 called Young Voices. There are costs associated with this such as travel and ticket prices which need to be borne by parents.

MUSIC LESSONS

Music, which forms part of the curriculum, is delivered by School and WSCC staff and is free to the children. This includes violin lessons in Downlands class. Some parents wish their child to learn additional musical instruments and we have access to specialist peripatetic music teachers, who visit the school, normally during the school day. We are able to offer guitar, piano, keyboard, violin, cello and brass lessons on this basis. There is a termly charge for these lessons, usually payable to the West Sussex Music Trust - they can also help with some instrument loans.

Whilst we do have a number of gifted musicians, we feel that the total number of additional instruments which a child chooses to study, including any learnt within school music lessons, should normally not exceed two. This ensures that they are not withdrawn from lessons for more than two sessions per week and allows for daily practice in addition to homework.