

South Petherwin Community Primary School

CHARGING POLICY



Charging LA Policy

This policy is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of section 457 of the Education Act, 1996 as amended by section 200 of the Education Act 2002, in conjunction with the policy of the LEA on charging for various school activities.

There are four principles underlying the provisions on charging:

1. That education in schools should be free.
2. That activities offered wholly or mainly during normal school teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
3. That there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education, but that LEAs and schools have the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours.
4. That LEAs and schools have the right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, or in support of any activity organized by the school, whether during or outside school hours.

The LEA is required to produce a policy on charging and governors of schools have also to state their policy, which may be more or less generous than the LEA policy providing they meet the requirements of the law.

1. The LEA Policy and Action required by Governors.

The LEA recognizes that there are a number of activities which will only take place if parental contributions are available but it stresses that no child should be excluded from any activity organized by the school because of the liability or unwillingness of their parents to pay such a contribution.

2. Optional visits wholly or mainly outside school hours.

It is the intention of the LEA and the school to charge the full cost of visits which take place wholly or mainly outside school hours, but which are not provided as part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination and not required in order to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to religious education. The cost could include travel, insurance, admission charges, meals and, if desired, a sum of money to

enable some pupils to go on the visit without payment, or to cover teachers' travel costs, where a separate contract is issued.

Governors have decided their policy on charging for school visits outside school hours on the basis that the visit will proceed only if all those who wish to go pay the full costs.

3. Visits wholly or mainly during school hours.

It is the intention of the LEA and the school to invite voluntary contributions toward the cost of visits which take place wholly or mainly during school hours and which may, or may not, be provided as part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination and may, or may not, be required in order to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to religious education. The cost could include travel, insurance and admission charges.

Governors have decided their policy on charging for school visits during school hours, on the basis that any trips and activities will only proceed if sufficient voluntary contributions are made, in order for arranged events to be viable.

The effect of the restriction on charging and of the fact that a child may not be prevented from going on a visit during school hours if the parents are unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution may lead to certain visits becoming unviable.

4. Board and lodging charges on residential visits.

Costings for residential trips will be determined as part of a consultation process between parents and the school. Residential trips will be subsidised at £20 per head and children will be responsible, under the guidance of the school to fundraise any transport costs.

Parents for whom the costs of the trip are perceived to be restrictive should approach the Headteacher to discuss any possible solutions.

No child should be excluded from any activity organized by the school because of the liability or unwillingness of their parents to pay such a contribution.

5. Individual tuition in the playing of a musical instrument.

It is not the intention of the LEA and the school to charge for such tuition where it is provided by the schools' staff, whether in or out of school hours. However where tuition or ensemble activities are provided by external agencies and peripatetic teachers a charge may be made to pupils concerned.

6. Charges for ingredients, materials and equipment.

Schools must be prepared to provide any ingredients, materials, equipment needed for the delivery of the curriculum. Parents who are willing to contribute in cash, or in kind, can be encouraged to do so on a voluntary basis. The school may charge for, or invite parents to supply, ingredients, materials and equipment if parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product.

7. Charges for breakages and fines.

There is nothing to prevent schools from asking parents to pay for damage to equipment or property caused by their child and governing bodies are advised to include their policy on such matters in their discipline codes so that parents and pupils know where they stand.

Governors have decided that parents will be asked to pay for any damages caused by their children, resulting from a deliberate or persistent action.

8. Recovery of unpaid charges.

Governors have decided to request payment in advance of all voluntary contributions for trips undertaken outside school hours.

The Governors' Policy

Communications with parents

The school will inform parents in writing in advance of any visits/activities which are likely to incur a charge.

The cost of providing for pupils who choose not to go on a visit which takes place partly in school time must be met by the school or be included in the voluntary payment by parents of children participating in the visit and may be included as part of a charge for board and lodging.

After 3.15pm and weekends are deemed out of school hours.

Policy to be reviewed annually

Approved by the FGB on.....25.6.15.....

Signed Chair of Governors...S Trewin.....

Signed Head Teacher.....Tim Gray.....

Amended Nov 15 – signed Chair of Governors....Nicola Hosking

Signed Head TeacherTheresa Mills