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CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

OVERVIEW

The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced new provisions on charging for school activities.

The purposes of these provisions are:

- to maintain the right to a free school education.
- to ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within normal school time should be available to all pupils, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
- to give educational authorities and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours
- to confirm that schools may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, either in or outside school hours.

INTRODUCTION

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual music tuition.

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. 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 have not paid the full contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

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 have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we make a charge to cover the costs of any workshops, board, lodging and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to speak in confidence to the Headteacher.

Music Tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

There is a charge for individual music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. Pupils who are entitled to free school meals will be supported by a 50% viable payment of the viable costs.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children from Year 2 to Year 6. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for the swimming lessons or transport which is funded through school budget share.

Subsidies

A cost centre will be established each year containing funds which will contribute towards the funding of outside visits through the provision of travel subsidies. In essence, the school will provide at least partial if not full subsidy for the cost of transport to and from an outside activity, subject to the limits set for the funds within the school cost centre, in cases where the activity is deemed to be part of the National Curriculum programme of study.

Monitoring

The Finance and Personnel Committee of the Governing Body will consider each June the question of whether further categories of remission will be set in place within this policy. In doing so, they will take account the availability of funding from the School Budget Share cost centres which relate to activities which may incur charges.

Policy adopted: Summer 2013

Policy review: Summer 2014