Ashurst Wood Primary School

**Charging Policy**



**Reviewed: May 2019**

**Review Date: Summer Term 1 2022**

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Charging Policy

**Introduction**

All education in school is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum on the school premises delivered by school staff.

**Voluntary contributions**

When organising school trips, visits or visitors which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the visit. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel an event. If an event goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not made any contribution. Moreover, when made, charges per pupil cannot exceed the actual costs incurred, which means that pupils who can pay should not be charged extra to cover the costs of those who cannot afford to. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school visit, trip or event, but is unable to make a voluntary contribution we ask that the parent discusses this with the Headteacher to establish ways in which this can be overcome. Occasionally the school can find additional funds in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each visit is funded. The school will provide this information on request, however the identity of any parent who has not been able to make a contribution towards their child’s attendance on such a trip or visit will be kept strictly private.

Examples of such activities include:

* External trips to museums, theatres etc.
* Visits from experts; artists; musicians etc to the school.

**Residential visits**

The school organises a residential trip for pupils in Years 5 and 6 every two years. This involves coaching sessions with trained instructors for as well as team building and social activities. These support our curriculum and develop independence and confidence. We make a charge for these visits except for those pupils who are receiving appropriate state benefits. The visit is arranged through a well-established company who sell this as a complete package including instruction, board, lodging and transport. Parents who are unable to afford this visit are encouraged to talk to the Headteacher to come to an agreement about help with the funding.

**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 or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. The LEA makes a charge for these lessons. This is arranged directly with the parent and does not involve the school in any administration.

**Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Year 4. These take place during school time and are part of the National Curriculum. However, we have to hire a private pool and an instructor. We ask for voluntary contributions to cover the minimal cost of these sessions. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to walk to the pool and take part in the swimming lessons.

**Extra – Curricular Activities**

The school offers sports coaching after school. This may involve arranging for a qualified coach, who is not a member of the school staff, to run and organise these sessions. We would need to make a charge for these sessions to cover the coach’s costs.