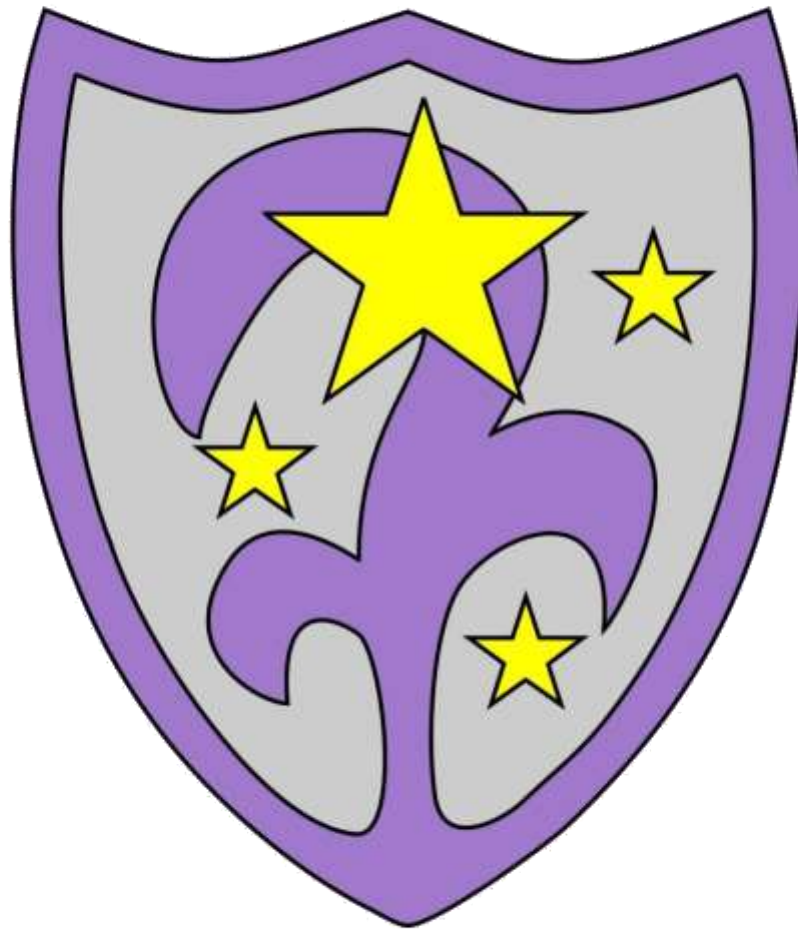


# Elliston Academy



## Charging Policy

Responsibility: Principal

Date: Spring 2022

Review: Spring 2023

Signed:

Principal - C. Patterson .....

## **1. Introduction**

Education provided during school hours is at no charge to Parents/Carers. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted in line with any subsequent guidelines from the DFE, local authority or the Enquire Learning Trust.

## **2. Contributions**

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children the school asks parents and carers to contribute to the cost, which is supplemented by school funds. We will inform parents of the full cost of school visits and the supplemented cost to them.

If a parent/carer wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event and is unable to make the full contribution the school will offer for the parent/carer to pay by instalments over a short period. Exceptional circumstances would be dealt with on an individual basis.

If a visit or event is free of charge we will ask for a nominal contribution towards the cost of transport. For visits and events that carry an admission charge, the school will calculate the total cost including transport and ask parents/carers for reasonable contribution.

## **3. Residential Visits**

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, we do offer a subsidized rate for children in receipt of pupil premium. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through these contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled, and that aspect of the curriculum would have to be covered in other ways.

*“Schools can charge for the cost of board and lodgings during overnight school trips, but the charge may not be more than the accommodation actually costs.*

*Where the visit is wholly or mainly during school hours, parents who get the following benefits aren't required to pay any charge for board and lodgings:*

*Income Support*

*Income-based Job Seekers Allowance*

*Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*

*Child Tax Credit provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income does not exceed £16,190*

*Guaranteed State Pension Credit”*

*Direct.gov.uk*

#### **4. 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 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 make a charge for these lessons and instrument hire.

#### **5. Transport**

Schools cannot charge for transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority or academy trust has a statutory obligation to provide transport, transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body, local authority or academy trust has arranged for pupils to be educated or transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school.

#### **6. Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. Parents and carers are informed when these lessons are to take place, and we seek the written permission of parents or carers for their children to take part.

#### **7. After School Clubs/Activities**

The school offers after school clubs and activities when possible. Clubs may be organised and run by school staff or external providers. Depending on the cost of the provision there may be a small charge for pupils to attend but this will always be subsidised from our school funding.

#### **8. Breakfast Club**

The school offers a pre school Breakfast Club which was originally funded by the Big Lottery Fund to cover the costs of the setting up of the breakfast club, staffing and activities from external providers for one year. School now heavily subsidise the breakfast club provision available for years reception to 6, there is a nominal charge for the breakfast provision.

#### **9. Spoilt or Damaged resources**

The school reserves the right to ask parents and carers to pay for the cost of replacing a lost resource (e.g. reading books). The school also reserves the right to ask parents and carers to pay for the cost of replacing and/ or repairing damaged or destroyed school property. The preferred method of issuing charges for replacing and/ or repairing lost or damaged property is the schools parent app. Parents and carers will be given the opportunity to discuss the charges with the head of school or senior member of staff and alternative methods of payment and repair and/ or replacement may be discussed.

## **11. School Meals**

Pupils in Foundation Stage Two to Year Two are entitled to a free school meal as part of the Governments Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) funding. The Local authority provides a school meal subsidy and as a result the current price of a school meal for pupils in Years three to Six is charged in line with the local authority's recommended school meal price.

We ask that school Meal accounts are kept in credit and balances of -£5.00 (10 meals) may result in pupils being unable to access the school meals service. The preferred method of payment is via the schools parent app. For information regarding free school meals (FSM) please contact the school office

*Parents/ guardians who are experiencing financial difficulty are advised to contact the school office as a matter of urgency should they feel that they are not in a position to keep their child's account in credit. Payment plans and alternative methods of payment are negotiable depending on individual circumstances.*

Please ask at the school office if you have any queries or would like to request a paper copy of Elliston Academy's charging policy.

## **12. School Equipment**

There may be occasions where the school provides equipment, uniform and resources such as musical instruments (in addition to the national curriculum) for a small charge. All charges are to cover the cost of the items only.