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Charging and Remissions Policy

Introduction

The Education Reform act 1988 came into force in April 1989; it brought about new regulations concerning payment for trips and activities, and made it a legal requirement for Governors of all schools to write a charging policy

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, visits and residential experiences can make towards the personal and social education of the children

The Governors aim to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the children of the school and as additional optional activities.

Purpose

In order to ensure that correct procedures are followed and no child is excluded from a visit or journey because they cannot afford to pay, a clear charging and remission policy must be known and understood by all parents

Guidelines

- 1 No charge can be made for any educational or related activity that takes place within school hours
- 2 No charge can be made for transport for costs for pupils travelling between school and where education is being carried out in school time e.g. swimming

Governors reserve the right to levy charges for the following

- 1 Board and lodging for residential trips of one or more nights away from home
- 2 Music tuition that is not prescribed as part of the National Curriculum. Charges will be made for music, instrumental hire and tuition
- 3 Swimming
- 4 After school clubs run by paid coaches/tutors
- 5 Transport, entrance fees and educational fees out of school hours. These are termed optional extras. The consent of parents and a willingness to meet extra charges will be sought before any bookings are finalised
- 6 Damage to or loss of books and or school equipment
- 7 Willful damage to school property

Although there is no obligation on any family to pay, the Governors reserve the right to request voluntary contributions for the following:

- 1 Activities during school hours including visiting theatre groups, day visits and school journeys. The contribution requested will not exceed the cost of the provision as no pupil should subsidise any other pupil
- 2 The cost of materials, ingredients, (or the provision of them by parents/carers) for the following subjects e.g. art and crafts, needlework or cookery etc when there is a finished product and the parent has indicated in advance that they wish to own the finished product. It will be the responsibility of the parent to let the school know that they do not wish to own the end product where the request for ingredients or materials are made

Since contributions to costs other than board and lodging are voluntary and visits/journeys involve deposits and guarantees of attendance, The Governors require advance notice by parents/carers whether they intend to contribute voluntarily. Only on the basis of signed declarations of intent will bookings be finalised.

Funds to subsidise activities are limited and the Governors intend to monitor the situation carefully, and if parents not in financial need choose to exercise their right not to contribute to school journeys/visits, then such activities may have to cease. It is not legal for contributing parents to subsidise those who do not.

Where the parents of a child are in receipt of income support or family credit the Governors will remit in full/half the cost of board and lodgings for the residential activity that it organises for the child, if the activity is deemed to take place within the school hours, or where it forms part of the National Curriculum. In other circumstances, there may be cases of family hardship which make it difficult for children to take part in particular activities for which a charge is made. When arranging a chargeable activity, the Governing Body will invite parents to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. Authorisation of remission will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors

The Governors reserve the right to review and alter this policy at any time if funds are insufficient to meet cost.

SignedChair of Governors

Dated March 2006

1st review due