



CHARGING POLICY

Introduction

The Governors of Eardisley C.E. Primary School recognise the tremendous support given by the parents to the school's activities and events.

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any normal activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, with the exception of individual or group music tuition. However, there may be some occasions where it is necessary to make a small charge to cover additional costs in order to provide curriculum enhancement.

Voluntary contributions

Headteachers or governing bodies may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

- Any activity which takes place during school hours;
- School equipment
- School funds generally

If an activity/trip is directly linked to the National Curriculum and within school hours the school will generally meet the cost of the activity but may request that parents and others make voluntary contributions where these costs would stretch the resources of the school.

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 any 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 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.

The following is a list of additional activities organized by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- musical events.

Residential visits, e.g., Red Ridge Activity Centre

The visit to Red Ridge Activity Centre takes place mainly in school time and is an opportunity to develop social and emotional and physical skills in a unique setting. Transport costs for this visit are met by the school but parents are asked to provide the remaining funds some of which are for board and lodging which the Governing Body is permitted to charge parents for.

The cost of board and lodging on non-chargeable residential trips will be remitted for parents who are in receipt of certain benefits on request.

No child will be excluded from such an activity because they cannot pay the cost.

Music

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. Specialist music teachers coming into school to teach specific instruments charge parents directly for these lessons.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Key Stage 1 and 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for pool hire or tuition but we do ask parents for voluntary contributions towards the cost of transport. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

Extra-curricular and After School Activities

We are pleased to be able to offer a rich and varied menu of activities at this school. At the moment we provide these free of charge to the parents but in order to remain sustainable this may change in the future and we would have to ask parents for payments. In this case, individual cases would be considered. Each activity would be considered on its own merit and may be withdrawn if costs are not met. Pupils attending Cookery Club are asked to pay for their ingredients.

Swallows After School Care Club

The Swallows Club provides after school care for children of parents who need wrap round cover. Charges are made for this club but on occasion, individual circumstances will be taken into consideration.

Pupil Premium

At times, the school may consider it appropriate to use the Pupil Premium to fund music tuition and other costs for eligible pupils.

Children in receipt of PPG who have been eligible for FSM (Deprivation based) during their time at our school may have costs such as swimming and trips waived or reduced in cases where we have received the actual PPG funding. They may also have assistance with other school costs.

For high cost trips such as Red Ridge, the above conditions apply to PPG pupils but we usually expect parents to pay a certain proportion to show their commitment and the school will pay the remainder. However, the cost of board and lodging on non-chargeable residential trips will be remitted for parents who are in receipt of certain benefits on request.

All cases will be assessed on an individual basis.

Looked After Children Funding

Payment of costs incurred by Looked After Children will be by prior discussion and arrangement.

Freedom of Information Act – Publication Scheme

Certain school publications available to the public may be subject to a charge. Details of these charges are available in Eardisley C.E. Primary School Publication Scheme available on request.

Signed Chair of Finance Governors

Date: October 2024
To be reviewed annually

Original Policy - NOVEMBER 2005