



TOGETHER WE GROW AND LEARN

Charging Policy

Date approved: - Spring Term 2017

Date to be reviewed: - Spring Term 2019

Governing Body Committee: - FPC



Blidworth Oaks Charging Policy

1 Introduction

The School Governing Body like the Local Authority is committed to the general principle of free education. 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 or group music tuition.

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of activities, including school visits, residential experiences and clubs, can make towards all aspects of pupils' education. The Governing Body would accordingly wish to promote and provide as far as possible such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the benefit of pupils of the school.

2 Voluntary contributions

Nothing in this policy statement precludes the School Governing Body from inviting parents/carers to make voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any school activity, whether during or outside school hours. Any contributions sought will be entirely voluntary and pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents/carers make a contribution in response to any invitation.

If an activity cannot take place without voluntary contributions, this should be made clear to parents/carers in the initial letter. The letter could indicate the contribution per pupil which would be required if the trip were to take place. However, the letter could make it clear that the activity would not take place if insufficient parents were able to support it.

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. Parents of paying children do not subsidise non paying children. 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 organised by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents:-

- Pupil's travel costs;
- Pupil's board and lodging costs;
- Materials, books, instruments and other equipment;
- Non-teaching staff costs;
- Entrance fees to museums, castles, theatres, etc;
- Insurance costs;
- Sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- Outdoor adventure activities;
- Musical events.

3 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 do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging and for activities that are not directly related to the National Curriculum.

Parents who receive state benefits are exempt from payment if the visit is directly related to the National Curriculum.

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 group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. If peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons we make a charge for these lessons. Parents in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5 Swimming

The school may organise swimming lessons for children, at some stage, in Key Stage 1 and 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. 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.

6 Football / Netball

The school may offer additional football or Netball coaching after school. If a qualified FA coach, who is not a member of the school staff, runs and organises these sessions a small charge may be made.

7 Transport to extra-curricular activities

We normally charge children if they are transported in a minibus to an extra-curricular activity. However, we use these charges only to cover the expenses of the trip, and not to make a profit.

8 Materials and Ingredients

A charge will only be made for any materials and ingredients relating to the activities taking place during school hours where parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product, e.g. In cooking or DT.

Alternatively parents may, in these circumstances, be asked to volunteer to provide the ingredients and materials prior to the activity taking place.

9 Breakages and damage to school property

The school governing body reserves the right to seek reparation from parents where their children cause breakages or damage to school property.

10 Governors will review this policy every two years

Additional Information

DfE guidance regarding Charging Policies can be via this link.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/365929/charging_for_school_activities_-_October_2014.pdf