

Benthal Primary School Charging Policy 2014-2017

Introduction:

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution the wide range of additional activities (e.g. clubs, trips, residential visits) can make toward the social, emotional and educational development of all children. The Governing Body seeks to promote and provide such opportunities through a broad and balanced curriculum and support this by additional optional activities, charging for these only when necessary.

Education provided during normal school hours is not charged for, nor do we charge for any activity undertaken as part of our obligation to meet the requirements of the national curriculum. However, we reserve the right to charge for extra activities that may lead beyond the official end of the school day.

Aims:

The aim of this policy is to set out what the school will not charge for, what it will charge for and also what it will make a request for a voluntary contribution from parents for. It will also seek to clarify where remissions can be claimed and children exempted from charges.

Activities outside of School Hours

The Governing Body reserves the right to charge for activities outside of school hours that are deemed an optional extra. This includes residential visits where a charge will be made for the cost of board, lodging and travel (subject to statutory exceptions). Any charge will not exceed the cost of the provision.

Voluntary Contributions

The Governing body may ask parents for a voluntary contribution toward an activity that takes place during school hours. Parents are under no obligation to make any contribution and pupils of parents who are unable or unwilling to contribute will not be discriminated against and will be fully included in the trip or activity. In the event of insufficient voluntary contributions being made the activity or trip may have to be cancelled and refunds will be given. Where transport is needed the school will strive to ensure that public transport is used and no charge for transport will be made.

Individual or Group Instrumental Tuition:

There is currently a small charge at this point for external provision of these lessons during school hours, however, the Governing Body will review the situation annually and reserves

the right to change the amount this if deemed necessary. Children in Care who wish to have instrumental tuition are entitled to free tuition.

Residential Visits

If the school organises a residential visit which provides education directly related to the national curriculum the school will not charge for the education or travel expenses, however the school does reserve the right to charge for the costs of board and lodgings and parents/carers will be informed of all costs that will be incurred.

Where the parents/carers of a pupil are in receipt of state benefits which would entitle their child to receive free school meals the Governing Body will remit partially the cost of board and lodging.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for children in year three and four occur annually. These lessons are related to the requirements of physical education within the national curriculum and as such we do not charge for this activity.

Breakages of Loss of Property

In cases of wilful or malicious damage to property the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors may decide to make a financial charge against the individual or family responsible. In the event of breakage or loss of equipment loaned to children the Headteacher and Chair of Governors will decide if a financial charge should be made.

This policy is monitored and reviewed by the Governing Body – the policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if deemed necessary by the Headteacher, Chair of Governors or relevant committee representing the Governing Body.

Signed (Chair of Governors or designated person)

Kathy Adams



Signed (Headteacher)

Sandra Chin



Date

09/10/2014