

South Borough Primary School – Charging Policy

Introduction

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities including clubs, trips, enrichment activities and residential experiences can make towards pupils' personal and social education. Governors believe that all our pupils should have equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents' 'financial means' (the use of 'parent' in this document refers to the parent or carer of a child attending the school). This charging policy and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered and at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

Principles

There are no compulsory charges for all activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum, Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and religious education at the school. The Governing Body give notice that charges will be made for the following activities:

- a) Individual or small group tuition in playing any musical instrument;
- b) For board and lodgings on a residential trip;
- c) Recovery cost of breakages or damage caused because of pupil's behaviour;
- d) For transport, other than from home to school, where this is considered necessary;
- e) For optional extras, eg cost of materials for art and design where parents have indicated a wish to own the finished product.
- f) For optional activities run outside of the school day eg family learning activities, clubs run by external provider and adult education.

Calculating Charges

The school seeks parental agreement in advance of any pupil participating in an activity, with the exception of swimming, which involves a charge. Parents will be informed of how the charges are calculated. Charges will be based on the actual costs incurred divided by the total number of pupils participating. The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents. There will be no levy on those who can/do pay to support those who can't/don't pay. Support for cases of hardship may come through voluntary contributions, fundraising and the Pupil Premium funding.

Voluntary contributions are sought from parents towards the costs of educational visits and activities (such as swimming) made during school hours. A child is not prevented from participating because a contribution has not been made. However, if the costs are not covered, the activity may have to be cancelled due to a lack of contributions. Parents are encouraged to approach the Headteacher or Family Liaison Officer in confidence about difficulties concerning payment.

Publication of the Policy

Autumn 2017 – Pending Approval