

BEECHDALE NURSERY SCHOOL



Charging for Activities Policy

Reviewed September 2022

Mrs J Graham

INTRODUCTION

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, practical activities, trips and residential experiences can make towards pupils' personal and social education. The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities.

Charging Policy

Any charges made by the school must meet the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1996. The governors endorse the guiding principles contained in the Act, in particular that no child should have his/her access to the curriculum limited by charges.

Charges

Charges will not be made for any activities which form part of the National Curriculum requirements. No charge can be made for education during school hours.

The Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances for activities organised by the school.

Activities outside school hours

The full cost to each pupil of any activities deemed to be optional extras taking place outside school hours. This includes residential visits, a charge will be made for the cost of board, lodging and travel costs (subject to statutory exceptions) the cost will not exceed the actual cost of provision.

Charging in Kind

The cost of materials, ingredients (or provision of them by parents) for practical subjects if the parents have indicated in advance that they wish to own the finished product.

Voluntary Contributions

The Governing Body may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of any 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. In the event of insufficient voluntary contributions being made the activity may have to be cancelled and refunds will be given.

CHILD CARE

Parents are given the option to purchase additional wraparound care after school until 6pm. This is delivered at the site of Consett Infant school and charges vary according to the hours accessed.

SCHOOL FUND

Parents are asked to contribute weekly, on a voluntary basis, to our school fund. No formal check on contributions is kept but the nature and purpose of the fund is explained to parents as their child enters nursery. Information can be found in the school brochure. This money is used for the following:-

- Flour, salt, oil and cream of tartar to make play dough.
- Baking ingredients.
- Food colourings.
- Films and developing.
- Antiseptics.
- Books and cassettes.
- Batteries.
- Items to link with on-going topics
- Sewing materials
- Christmas presents
- Christmas tree and decorations
- Birthday party biscuits and candles
- Gardening materials
- Pet food
- Forest School Resources
- Woodwork materials
- Collage materials
- Badges and prizes for special events
- Contributions to outings
- Role play equipment
- "Thank you" gifts

Information on what has been purchased is included in the half termly Newsletters for parents/carers.

For outings we normally ask parents for a contribution of 75% of the cost per head – the remainder being met from school fund.

No child would be excluded from an activity because parents had declined to contribute – unless parents specifically asked that the child should not be included. Should contributions fall to a very low percentage, the activity might have to be abandoned.

Examples of extra activities may include short trips out of school for educational purposes:-

- Museums
- Art exhibitions
- Farms
- Local college
- Leisure centres

- Santa train
- Boat trips
- Sea-side
- Parks
- Theatres
- Rivers
- Durham Cathedral
- Police Station
- Fire Station
- Airport
- Garden Centres

Outside agencies may be invited into school to contribute to extra curricular activities:-

- Theatre groups
- Magicians
- Entertainers
- Story tellers
- Musicians
- Dancers
- Artists
- Demonstrators

PROCEDURES

1. Parents are invited to contribute to school fund on a weekly basis – this can be paid half termly or termly.
2. For educational visits, an explanatory letter – with permission slip – is given to all parents asking them for a voluntary contribution of approximately half of the cost entailed. This money is collected together (with the permission slips) and paid into the school bank or building society accounts. A cheque is then written to cover the full cost. For full days trips an indemnity form will need to be signed by parents. (See Off-Site Educational Visits Policy). Risk assessments are also completed and the forms placed in the Health and Safety Risk Register.
3. A balance sheet, showing the school fund accounts, is given to governors at each termly meeting and a copy is available for parents to see.
4. Fund raising events take place on a regular basis and supplement the school fund.

Breakages

In cases of wilful or malicious damage to equipment or breakages, or loss of school books or equipment on loan to pupils the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body may decide to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

General

The Governing Body may, from time to time amend the categories for which a charge may be made. The Governing Body reserve the right to review the Charging and Remissions Policy as necessary.

This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated as part of the school's overall CPD plan.

Review date – September 2023