



Beechwood Primary School

Charging Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 All education during school hours is free with the exception of individual or group music tuition (see 4 below). We do not charge for any activity undertaken during school hours as part of the National Curriculum.

2 School trips/visits and activities during school time – Voluntary Contributions

- 2.1 When organising school activities, trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents/carers to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If sufficient voluntary contributions are not made (e.g. if there is a shortfall of 7.5% or more) a proposed event would be cancelled, unless the school is able to cover the shortfall arising from parents/carers unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution. If the event does proceed each child would be allowed to participate fully without discrimination irrespective of contribution circumstances.
- 2.2 Parent/Carers have a right to know how each individual trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.
- 2.3 The following is a list of additional activities sometimes 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 – sometimes involving transport expenses
 - ❖ Outdoor adventure activities
 - ❖ Visits to the theatre
 - ❖ Musical events
- 2.4 Parents/Carers will be given reasonable advanced notice of proposed visits/activities and school will provide details of how each individual voluntary contribution amount has been determined. Staged payments may be arranged where contributions are significant.
- 2.5 Effective from 1 April 2012, for pupils who receive Free School meals a £10.00 contribution will be made towards the trip from the Pupil Premium Funding – this will be reviewed annually and is dependant on the availability of the Pupil Premium Funding.

3 Residential Visits – Charges

- 3.1 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 expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodgings and may invite voluntary contributions to meet other costs associated with the visit. Parents/Carers who receive specific state benefits are exempt from charges for board and lodgings and specific details of exemptions will be provided at the time that residential visit details are notified.

Effective from 1 April 2012, the school will not make any charge for pupils receiving free school meals. The costs will be covered through the Pupil Premium Grant as long as it is provided to schools.

- 3.2 Parents/Carers will be given advanced notice of proposed residential visit opportunities together with an early indication of charges and voluntary contribution requests and staged payments may be arranged where contributions are significant.

4 Music Tuition

- 4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.
- 4.2 Visiting music teachers offer individual or small group music tuition at the school which is additional to the National curriculum. We give parents information about availability of this facility and a charge is made for these lessons.
- 4.3 Pupils receiving tuition from Berkshire Maestros will be charged for the rental of musical instruments. Pupils receiving free school meals will be exempt from this charge.

5 Swimming

- 5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for all children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity, however we do ask for a voluntary contribution towards the heating and upkeep of the swimming pool. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

6 Out of School Clubs and Activities

- 6.1 The school offers a range of out-of-school clubs and reserves the right to charge for such sessions to cover the cost of provision.
- 6.2 We may host out-of-school activities that are provided by a third party. Beechwood does not make any financial gain from this as we believe they offer an opportunity to enrich the lives of our pupils. Any cost charged by the provider goes directly to them.

7 Uniform

- 7.1 Beechwood has a school uniform (see prospectus and website for details) and encourages all children to wear uniform in order to help children feel a sense of identity and belonging as well as reducing peer pressure, that children can feel to wear the latest fashions. Affordable uniform is available from the school PTS, but we recognise parents' choice to source specific items, blouses, shirts, shorts, skirts, trousers etc from other outlets to reduce costs.

8 Transport to Extra-Curricular Activities

- 8.1 Parents/Carers may be charged to cover the transport expenses associated with an extra-curricular activity. Charges for transport will be strictly based on covering actual costs (as defined in legislation) with no profit element.

9 Loss of/Damage to School Property

- 9.1 Parents/Carers may be asked to meet the costs of repair/replacement of school property lost or damaged as a result of a pupil's misbehaviour.

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Reviewed: April 2016

Next Review: April 2018