



# **EASTINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **CHARGING POLICY**

**(Reviewed annually)**

## **CHARGING POLICY**

### **Forward**

1. The Act requires the Governing Body of all maintained schools, to draw up and keep under review, its own policies in respect of charging for, and the remission of, charges for school activities
2. The relevant background is contained at the Appendix attached.

### **Objectives**

- The objectives of the charging provisions in the 1988 Act are:
- To maintain the right to free school education
- To establish that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost
- To emphasise that there is no statutory requirements to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to give LA's and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours.
- To confirm the rights of LA's and schools to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, whether during or outside school hours.

### **Policy**

#### **(a) Introduction**

The school wishes to provide for all pupils the best possible educational opportunities available within the funds allocated by the LA. The law states very clearly that education during normal school hours is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents and the school warmly endorses that principle and is committed to uphold the legal requirements

It is recognised, however, that many educationally valuable activities have been and will continue to be dependent on financial contributions in whole or in part from parents. Without that financial support, the school would find it quite impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of the educational programme provided for pupils. The school's concern is to keep financial contribution to a reasonable minimum and to ensure as far as possible that all children are able to take part, irrespective of their circumstances.

The law recognises that charges may be made to parents in certain defined circumstances – provided that each school has identified the activities for which charges will be made and has explained the basis on which charges may be reduced or waived for certain pupils.

## **(b) Statement**

The Governing Body of Eastington Primary School has decided that, until further notice, its policy will be as follows:

### **1. Day Visits**

For visits occurring during school time the school will invite a voluntary contribution from parents to meet costs. For visits outside school time parents will be charged for all allowable costs charges may be waived or reduced for children whose parents make applications to the Headteacher.

### **2. Residential visits during school time**

The school will invite voluntary contributions from parents to meet costs other than children's board and lodgings. Parents will be charged for the full cost of the children's board and lodgings. No charge for board and lodgings will be made for children whose parents are receiving Income Support or Family Credit. Charges may be waived or reduced for other children whose parents make application to the Head.

### **3. Residential visits outside school time**

Parents will be charged for the full cost of the visit, including all allowable costs and board and lodging. Charges may be waived or reduced for children whose parents make application to the Head.

### **4. Any visit required because of recognised public examination, the National Curriculum or the law on Religious Education**

As for 2 above

### **5. Instrumental Music on an individual basis**

Any tuition provided during school hours is currently paid for termly in advance. Qualified peripatetic tutors act on behalf of the school to work with individuals. The school currently subsidises this cost which is reviewed annually by the Governing Body and is subject to change. A charge is also made for the hire of the musical instruments. This is currently an arrangement between the parents/carer and Collwell Arts Centre (Glos LA).

### **6. Classroom Materials**

No charge will be made for materials or equipment. However for certain practical activities (Technology, Cookery etc). Parents may be invited to provide materials or ingredients on a voluntary basis. Where parents would like to possess the finished product, the school reserves the right to charge the cost or require the supply of the necessary materials.

### **7. Voluntary Contributions**

Where voluntary contribution are invited toward the cost of 1 to 6 above, no child will be denied participation solely as a consequence of its parent/carer declining to make a voluntary contribution

The school will not proceed with any activity unless it is clear that there will be sufficient voluntary contributions to enable that activity to be self-financing.

### **8. Return of Voluntary Contribution**

All voluntary contributions towards an activity will be returned if the school is unable to proceed with that activity. No voluntary contributions towards an activity will be returned if that activity proceeds

#### **9. Governor information**

A statement related to this policy is recorded for Parents in the School Prospectus. A copy of the policy is situated in the front entrance. The Governors are happy to discuss the contents of this policy with parents who may wish to do so.

#### **10. Review**

The Governors of the school are required to keep their policy under review. The review will take place annually.

### **Appendix**

Allowable costs include;

1. The pupil's travel and subsistence costs
2. Materials, books, instruments and other equipment
3. Non Teaching staff
4. Costs of teaching staff where separately engaged under a contract for services for the visit or activity
5. Entrance fees to museums, castles theatres etc
6. Insurance costs