



Charging Policy for School Activities

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Rationale

This policy reinforces the objectives of the charging provisions laid down in the 1996 Education Act which are:

- to maintain the right of 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 requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to give the LA and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours; and
- to confirm the right of the LA 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.

Charging for activities and materials used to support the curriculum

The Curriculum at Friezland Primary School will be delivered without charge. At the same time however, it is recognised that the curriculum may be enriched by activities and materials which could not be made freely available within the scope of existing budgets and resources, and these activities and materials will only be available if sufficient voluntary contributions are available from parents.

Activities outside the curriculum

The Governors recognise that certain activities, whilst lying outside the scope of the school curriculum, do support the learning and personal development of pupils. Where costs are incurred, it is therefore the intention of the Governing Body to charge for such activities, always with the provision that requests for financial support by parents will be treated sympathetically.

Provision of Educational Visits

1. As part of the curriculum

There will be no compulsory charge for such activities except in the case of board and lodging on residential visits. Voluntary contributions to cover costs of such activities will be sought from parents. Should contributions not be forthcoming, and an appropriate

alternative activity which does not involve costs cannot be found then the activity cannot take place.

2. As an activity outside the curriculum

The Governing Body of Friezland Primary School believe that participation in these activities by pupils, is largely a matter of parental choice. Where they take place outside school hours e.g. as an 'extra-curricular' activity, parents will be expected to pay the whole cost of a pupil's participation and this cost may include:

- teacher expenses
- materials / books / instruments and other equipment
- entrance fees
- insurance costs

Where these activities take place mainly inside school hours, then they will be open to all pupils, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to pay. In these cases, a voluntary contribution will be sought from parents, except in the case that a pupil travels directly from home to the activity, the parents will be expected to pay the cost of the travel. If the voluntary contributions so sought, fail to cover the whole cost of that activity, then Governors can decide to cover any short-fall through the school fund. If this is not (because the short-fall is too great or there are insufficient funds available) then the activity will not take place.

Charges for public examination entry

No charge will be made for a pupil's entry into a public examination or any other examination for which a pupil has been prepared as part of the school curriculum. Parents will however, having signified their agreement to such entries, be responsible for the fees for examination which the pupil fails to attend except by reason of sickness.

Payment for damage to school property

Parents will be expected to pay the replacement cost of school property which has been damaged by a pupil through negligence or maliciousness.

School funds and cases of hardship

School funds generated by parents voluntarily, may be used to support the activities recorded in this policy and alleviate cases of hardship.

It is an over-riding principle of the school that all activities should be available to all pupils and the Governors will endeavour to support pupils in cases of genuine financial difficulty i.e. when families are in receipt of income support, family credit, an income-based job seeker's allowance or a disability working allowance. Such cases will be considered by the Governing Board sub-committee, Resource & Environment (R&E).

Lettings

Any applications to let the school on a regular basis are welcomed and will be considered by the Governing Body subject to suitable references and DBS clearance.

Letting fees varying, depending on:

- *area to be let e.g. whole school, hall, outdoor area, MUGA, Forest, access to toilets etc.
- *whether a day rate or hourly rate is suitable
- *whether or not school staff are required- unlocking / locking up of building, cleaning etc.
- *the length of the contract- one-off or ongoing

The R&E Committee will agree the fee and ensure an appropriate contract is drawn up.