

## **CHARGING POLICY**

### **Education Reform Act 1988 Charges for School Activities**

The objectives of the charging provision 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 requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to give schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours
- to confirm the right of 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.

The Governors of Woodland View Primary School value the benefit that pupils gain from educational visits, both day and residential, and art-related performances or sport activities in and out of school. We recognise that these activities enhance and enrich the school's curriculum. We are committed to pupils having access and opportunity to participate in these activities and acknowledge our responsibilities in light of the 1988 Education Act.

### **Residential Visits**

The Staff, planning a provisional visit, calculate the costs with a view to the covering of all costs.

- An initial letter is circulated to explain the nature of the proposed activity and its value in educational terms and the cost is given. The trip will only take place if numbers are sufficient to make the trip viable.
- The letter will detail the amount and breakdown of costing, stating the deposit required and an instalment payment scheme. Those Parents who are unable or unwilling to meet the cost are asked to contact the Headteacher for a confidential discussion.
- It is intended that no pupil will be treated differently whether or not their Parents are unable to make the voluntary contribution.
- In the event of insufficient funds, the visit will not take place.
- In accordance with the Act, complete remission will be made for board and lodging for all Parents in receipt of income support or family credit. Consideration will also be given to these children for other activities where

voluntary contributions are to be asked for.

- Arrangements are made in school for any child not involved in the visit

### **Day Educational Visits**

A letter detailing the visit and its educational benefits will be sent to Parents and a voluntary contribution will be asked for to cover the cost of transport and entrance fees, and a reply slip included. Parents are asked to consult with the Headteacher if this presents any difficulty so that arrangements can be made.

Parents who do not send reply slips are discreetly contacted to ensure that all children benefit from the visit. In the event of insufficient funds the trip will not go ahead. If sufficient funds are received, all children will attend.

### **Visiting Artists (eg Theatre Companies)**

A letter (with reply slip if appropriate) explaining the activity will be sent. Where possible the cost is met through School Fund. On those occasions when it is not, Parents are asked for a voluntary contribution. No child is excluded due to non-payment.

### **Musical Instruments and Tuition**

As places become available for tuition, a letter to all parents will communicate the opportunity. Those who express interest are offered an audition. If the child is accepted, a second letter is sent stating the Parents' responsibility for the loaned instrument and the termly fees to be paid in advance, and the notice to be given. Decisions about which children are offered tuition are made by the Headteacher, on the advice of the peripatetic tutor.

If the family receive income support or family credit, the fees can be met in part or fully by School Fund. An ability to pay is not one of the intents of the audition.

### **Design Technology**

When children undertake activities (eg cooking) and take home the finished product, parents are invited to make a specified voluntary contribution towards the costs.

### **Breakages**

Non-accidental breakages/damage/loss of equipment and books as a result of a child's misbehaviour should be paid for by the Parents.