

Ellwood Community Primary School

Believe, Achieve, Belong



Charging Policy

Date reviewed: September 2026

Next renew date: September 2027

The school endeavours to provide, for all, pupils the best possible educational opportunities available within the funds allocated by the Education Authority.

Central to the delivery of the school's curriculum are real life experiences. The school organises a wide and varied range of external educational visits, specialist teachers, performers and visitors. Many of these activities are free, but the school does ask for voluntary contributions for some of them in order for them to go ahead. We take in to consideration any disadvantaged pupils and subsidise towards the trips/events, where possible.

The school strives to provide educational activities for free during school hours, 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. The school will endeavour to keep financial contributions to a reasonable minimum and to ensure as far as possible that all children are able to take part, irrespective of their circumstances. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then it may need to be cancelled.

The school recognises that charges may be made to parents in certain defined circumstances - provided that school has identified the activities for which charges will be made. On occasion, charges maybe reduced or waived for certain pupils, for example children in receipt of pupil premium.

Introduction

The school does not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the standard National Curriculum with the exception of additional individual or group music tuition. However, parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the expenses of hiring a specialist teacher, visit, visitor or performer which will enhance the curriculum further.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits, which enrich the curriculum, and educational experience of the children, the school can invite parents to contribute financially towards the cost. If we do not receive

sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If the school has enough funds and the trip/experience is able to go ahead and a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the educational trip or activity. Sometimes, the school will pay additional costs in order to support the visit if financially possible, so that all children are able to attend. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded and the school will provide this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which are likely to require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- farm park and wildlife park visits;
- gymnastic centre (transport)
- additional swimming above and beyond the expectation of KS 2 swimming (transport)
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre/cinema;
- choir related trips (transport);
- school trips abroad;
- residential trips;
- musical performances and events;
- visits to sites of historical interest or importance;
- science or geographical (local and seaside) sites of interest
- other costs for transport

Residential visits

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 may not make any charge for the education/activities. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of travel, board and lodging and additional educational activities which may not be directly linked to the National Curriculum.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

There is a charge for any additional individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. Peripatetic music teachers may teach individual or small group lessons. There will be a charge for these lessons.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children in KS2 and occasionally KS1. These take place in school time and for Key stage 2, as part of the National Curriculum. We give the children the opportunity to attend more lessons than the necessary basic offer. We do ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards this and the additional cost of hiring the pool, transport, lifeguards and swimming instructors. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place.

Lettings

The school has the provision to offer a classroom, the school hall or school site for private hire, providing they are not already being used. This may be during the school day e.g. training courses, or out of school hours for the benefit of the community e.g. dance/exercise classes, church services or music recital space.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Review: September 2026	By: Mrs Milford	Signed: <i>Mrs Milford</i>
Due to be Reviewed: September 2027	Approved by Governors:	September 2027