Ellwood Primary School

Charging Policy

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 visiting speaker. Many of these activities are free, but the school does ask for voluntary contributions for some of them.

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 will be cancelled.

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. This detail is contained within the school's Charging Policy which has been approved by The Governing Body of Ellwood Community Primary School. The policy is as follows:

1 Introduction

1.1 All education during school hours is free. The school does not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition. However, we may ask parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the expenses of hiring a specialist teacher, visitor or performer.

2 Voluntary contributions

2.1 When organising school trips or visits, which enrich the curriculum, and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute

financially towards the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. 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.

2.2 If 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, 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.

2.3 The following is a list of additional activities organised 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 which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- school trips abroad;
- musical performances and events;
- Visits to sites of historical interest or importance
- Science or geographical sites of interest.
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3 Residential visits

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

4 Music tuition

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

4.2 There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5 Swimming

5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for children in 2 and occasionally KS 1. These take place in school time and for Key stage 2 are part of the National Curriculum. We do ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the additional cost of hiring the pool, lifeguards and swimming instructors. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

6 Lettings (also, see Lettings Policy)

6.1 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.

Signed: D.Milford
Date Reviewed: February 2018