



Pauntley C of E Primary School

Charging Policy

School Mission Statement Stepping out boldly with God

'Jesus said, follow me.' Matthew 9.9

Pauntley is an inclusive and caring school of choice. We are child-focussed, with core values to enable us all to follow Jesus's example and so flourish and contribute to the local community and the world God loves.

Introduction

Education during normal school hours is free of charge to parents*. However, there are educationally valuable activities that are dependent on financial contributions from parents that otherwise the school would find quite impossible to provide.

Aims

We recognise the value of providing a wide range of experiences to enrich and extend children's learning and to contribute to their personal development. We promote and provide such experiences for the children of the school, both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and as additional optional activities.

However, many of these activities have an associated cost and cannot be provided unless voluntary contributions are received or parents are charged for the costs. This policy will set out circumstances, in line with The Education Act, in which charges will or will not be made for school activities and when charges may be waived in order to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to benefit from school visits, curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Education during school hours

DfE Charging activities 2018 states that "education provided during school hours must be free this includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by school to carry children between school and an activity" it goes on to say "although schools cannot charge for school time activities, they can ask parents to make voluntary contributions". When additional costs are incurred by Pauntley CofE Primary School to enhance the curriculum opportunities for the children, parents may be asked to make voluntary contributions. However, no child will be left out of an activity because their parent cannot or will not make a contribution.

Education out of school hours

DfE Charging activities 2018 states that "parents can only be charged for activities that happen outside the school hours when these activities are not necessary part of the National Curriculum or religious education. No charge will be made for activities that are an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination. Charges may be made for activities that happen outside school hours if parents agree to pay". The Education Act 1988 describes activities, which can be charged for as 'optional extras'.

Remissions

To ensure that all children gain fully from everything that the school is able to offer them and is based on an understanding of the relationship between low income, entitlement and access. This takes into account the very real and persistent difficulties which people on low income have in meeting the costs of educational activities for their children.

Where parents are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Support under part IV of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999 or Child Tax Credit (provided that Working Tax Credit is not received), the Governing Body will observe its statutory requirements to remit in full the cost of board and

lodgings for any residential activity that the school organise for the children that is essential to the education provided at school, if the activity is deemed to take place within school hours. There may be cases of family hardship which make it difficult for children to take part in other activities for which a charge is made. When arranging a chargeable activity the Governing Body will invite parents to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. Authorisation of remission will be made by the Head Teacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

Data protection of children and families

Staff will ensure that these children are not publically identified and stigmatised. This is particularly important as the fear of stigmatisation is often a key element in the non-take up of Free School Meals.

Contributions

Voluntary contributions may be requested to help provide activities even though they may be part of the normal school day or part of the National Curriculum. If voluntary contributions are requested for an activity it should be clearly understood that there is no obligation to contribute and that if the parent is unable or unwilling to pay, the child will not be excluded from the activity. However, if sufficient contributions are not received the activity may be cancelled.

Charges

The Governing Body reserves the right to make charges for the activities and items detailed below:

- Trips which are not part of the school curriculum or outside the school day
- After school clubs and pre-school clubs
- Damage to school property – the cost of replacing the item, such as a broken window, lost book, damaged resource, where this is a result of a child's behaviour
- Visit to school by a professional e.g. Authors, musicians, story tellers, artists etc.
- Damage to school curriculum books (Reading scheme)

Residential Activity

DfE Charging activities 2018 states that “for a residential activity taking place largely during school time, essential to the education provided at school, no charge may be made for either education or the cost of the travel”. However, charges will be made for board and lodgings in these circumstances. A voluntary contribution will be requested by the school for such activities. Residential activities not essential to the education provided at school will be charged for in full and children of parents who choose not to participate will continue to be educated at school at no cost to themselves. Parents in receipt of the benefits highlighted in the ‘Remissions’ section should approach the Head Teacher or Pastoral Leader to discuss possible remissions

Policy used in conjunction with Debt Policy, Pupil Premium Policy