



Bellingham Middle School

Charging Policy 2016

In accordance with Sections 450 – 461 of the Education Act 1996, the Governing Body make no charge for education or educational activities provided during school hours as part of the published curriculum. However, the Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities can make towards the personal and social education of pupils. The Governing Body therefore reserve the right to levy charges for the following activities arranged by the school, which will not exceed the actual cost of the activity.

1. 'Optional Extra' activities outside school hours

The full cost for activities including residential visits, which take place out of school hours may be charged to parents provided that they are not a necessary part of the National Curriculum, an examination syllabus, or religious education, where no charge will be made. In fixing the charge the school may take account of the costs for travel, lodging for supervisory staff, and associated supply cover.

2. Residential Visits partly or fully during school hours.

Governors appreciate the valuable contribution that residential visits make to the education of our pupils. With this in mind the Governors will strive to make such residential visits as accessible as possible to as many pupils as possible. However, the Governors are equally aware of the fact that it is not possible to make all visits totally inclusive.

The Governors recognise that families in receipt of Income Support, Family Credit, Disability Working Allowance or income based Jobseekers Allowance may be entitled to funding to support such visits and will endeavour to support families in accessing such funding if available. For higher cost visits and those organised and charged by an independent tour operator, Governors will ensure that systems are in place in school to allow families to "save" over a period of time towards the visit.

3. Music

If pupils make use of an instrument provided by the school or the Authority, a charge will be made in respect of the maintenance of the instrument in accordance with the published scale of charges. A charge will also be made in respect of the cost of tuition.

The Governors recognise that families in receipt of Income Support, Family Credit, Disability Working Allowance or income based Jobseekers Allowance may be entitled to funding to support music and will endeavour to support families.

4. Materials for practical lessons

Voluntary contributions or provision of goods in kind may be requested from parents for materials for practical lessons (Design Technology, Food Technology or other subject areas as the Governing Body may from time to time determine), if parents indicate in advance a wish to own the finished produce.

5. Visits in support of the curriculum, which is desirable but not essential.

The Governing Body recognises that the school may wish to offer opportunities for pupils to broaden the range of experience in connection with certain curriculum areas during school hours. Such opportunities might comprise an educational visit to an historic site, a theatre visit; work in an art gallery or museum, or use of swimming pools.

The Governing Body's policy is to encourage the school to work jointly with parents in this respect, and invite voluntary contributions from parents, either general to school funds or specifically for certain activities, in accordance with section 460 of the 1996 Act.

In encouraging such co-operation the Governing Body is anxious to ensure that parents are made aware that any such contributions are voluntary and that pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution.

The Governing Body recognises that the viability of visits in support of the curriculum, which are desirable but not essential, depends upon the level of voluntary financial support received from parents and delegate to the Head teacher responsibility for decisions in relation to the viability of such visits.

Updated by	Rebecca Simpson
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