



Alver Valley
Federation of Schools

Charging Policy

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Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition requested by parents.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may find it necessary to cancel an event. Children whose parents have not made a contribution will not be excluded from any event. Parents have a right to know how each event is funded. The school will provide this information.

After School Clubs and Activities

The school offers a range of after school activities that are led by staff at the school. These activities are offered free of charge. In addition there are several after school activities that are led by outside agencies. These individual agencies will charge for the specialist support offered.

The school offers a number of after school clubs which are run by commercial organisations. Qualified instructors, who are not members of the school staff, run and organise these sessions. The organising companies make a charge for these activities. This money does not enter the school accounts, but is paid straight to the company by the parents. No charge is made by the school for the use of the premises.

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 do not make any charge for the teaching/instruction. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. Parents who are unable to afford the full cost of the visit are able to negotiate with the Headteacher to either spread the payments over a period of time or to have the cost of the trip subsidised by the school. This agreement will be put in writing with an agreed payment plan. All parents will be asked to make a contribution of a minimum of 50%, to include the non-refundable deposit. The school will support parents with the cost of one residential visit per child during their time at the school. All agreed costs must be paid before the date of the trip.

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances;
- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;

- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 (Financial Year 2013/14);
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008; and