



Ashleworth C of E Primary School Charging Policy

The School wishes to provide for all pupils the best possible educational opportunities available. The law states very clearly that education during normal school hours is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents. The School warmly endorses that principle and is committed to uphold that legal requirement.

However, many educationally valuable activities have been and will continue to be dependent on financial contributions in whole or part from parents. Without that financial support, the school would find it quite impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of the educational programme provided for pupils. The cost put to the parents, per child, will at no time exceed the actual cost of the provision. The School's concern is 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.

School values very highly the support of the 'PTFA' for aspects of funding eg. transport, admission fees.

The law recognises that charges may be made to parents in certain defined circumstances – provided that the 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.

The Governing Body of Ashleworth C of E Primary School has decided that, until further notice, its policy will be as follows:

Voluntary Contributions

The School may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the costs of school activities, school equipment and school funds generally.

The contribution must be genuinely voluntary and the pupils of parents who are unable or unwilling to contribute will not be discriminated against. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make an activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then it may have to be cancelled. (If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the parents will be notified of this from the outset). If an activity is cancelled, all contributions made will be returned to parents.

Day visits

For visits occurring during school time, the School will invite a voluntary contribution from parents to meet costs. For visits outside school time, parents will be charged for all allowable* costs. Charges may be waived or reduced for children whose parents make an application to the Head.

Residential visits during school time

The School will invite voluntary contributions from parents to meet all allowable* costs other than the child's board and lodgings. Parents will be charged for the full cost of the child's board and lodgings. No charge for board and lodgings will be made for children who are eligible for free school meals and whose parents/carers are receiving qualifying income-based benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) does not exceed £15,575
- Guaranteed State Pension Credit

Charges may be waived or reduced for other children whose parents make an application to the Head.

Residential visits outside school time

Parents will be charged for the full cost of the visit, including all board and lodging and other allowable* costs. Charges may be waived or reduced for other children whose parents make an application to the Head.

*Allowable costs include:

- i The pupil's travel and subsistence costs
- ii Non-teaching staff
- iii Costs of teaching staff where separately engaged under a contract for the visit or activity
- iv Entrance fees to museums, castles, theatres, etc
- v Insurance costs
- vi School Governor training expenses

Additional Considerations

- The School will publish notification of school trips/activities and their expected cost as far in advance as possible, so that parents can plan ahead.
- The School has established a system for parents to pay for residential trips by instalments.
- The School acknowledges that offering opportunities on a 'first come, first served' basis discriminates against pupils from families on lower incomes and so will avoid that method of selection.
- Parents are encouraged to provide materials for practical activities, but no pupil will be disadvantaged because of parents' inability or unwillingness to pay. Where necessary, School will pay.

- Parents may be expected to replace or purchase items of lost property.
- Parents are to be made aware that wilful damage to school buildings or property may be charged to parents by the School.

This policy was written in consultation with staff and governors in March 2015. It is reviewed annually. Last review February 2019.

In all aspects of life at Ashleworth C of E Primary School, the safeguarding and well-being of our children is paramount. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this