



SHEERHATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHARGING POLICY

Introduction

All the education we provide during normal school hours is at no charge to pupils. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum. We cannot levy a compulsory charge for activities or visits during school hours or transport for such visits.

Voluntary contributions

The school may ask parents/carers for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of an activity that takes place within school hours or towards equipment or resources. Pupils of parents/carers who are unable or unwilling to contribute will not be discriminated against. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make an activity possible, it may be cancelled.

Music tuition

All pupils study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. There is a charge for these lessons, but parents/carers in certain circumstances can apply for reduced fees, including pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium. Charges are set by the provider, Bedford Music Cooperative, who are responsible for the collection and banking of the payments.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all pupils in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. The school subsidises the cost of this activity, but we may ask for a voluntary contribution from parents/carers to cover the remaining costs including transport.

School Trips and Enrichment Activities

A voluntary contribution is requested to cover the costs of such activities that take place within school hours. Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium may be eligible to have these costs covered. If residential visits are offered, the school can charge parents/carers for transport, meals and accommodation.

School Meals

The school uses the Local Authority contracted caterer to provide school meals. These are free to pupils up to the end of Year 2, through the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. The charges for the older pupils are set by the contract caterer, who is responsible for the banking and accounting for the income.

Food Technology, Art and Design Technology

Pupils may be asked to pay a voluntary contribution towards the cost of consumables used in producing items that they take home.

Extra-curricular activities

External companies such as SSG will charge parents in advance to access an after school club. All monies are collated by the external company. The school will look to ensure best value for money when sourcing external providers. There will be no charge for clubs offered during lunchtimes or for after school clubs run by school staff where there is no resource implication.

Damage/Loss

A charge may be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of school property or property belonging to a third party (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials), the charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such cost as the Headteacher may decide.

Care Club

As a provider of child care outside of normal school hours, parents/carers are charged for the use of Care Club facilities. Please see separate 'Bookings and Fee Policy'.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. The Policy was approved by the Governing Body at its meeting on: 4th December 2024

Signed by Head Teacher

Signed by Chair of Governors