Silkstone Common J&I

Charging policy

Date of review by Governing Body	07.02.24
Date of next review by Governing Body	Spring 2025

1 Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

2 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 cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- Visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- musical events.

3. Residential Trips

If the school organises a residential trip 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 education.

However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of the board, lodging and travel expenses. If parents are experiencing financial difficulties, they are offered extended payment terms.

4. Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children by the end of Year 6. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

5. Activities Outside School Hours

No charge is made for activities that are outside of school hours and are part of the curriculum. However, we may ask for a contribution towards materials.

For all other activities outside of school hours, a charge up to the cost of the activity will be levied.

6. Damage/Loss to property

In cases of willful or malicious damage to equipment or breakages, or loss of school books on loan to children, the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body may decide it right to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

7. Lettings

The school will make its facilities available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges is determined annually by the Governing Body and form part of our separate Lettings policy

8. Other charges

The Headteacher or Governing Body may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services, e.g. Photocopying

This policy relates to the DFE booklet charging for school activities.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charging-for-school-activities