



At Christ Church Primary SW9 we believe that everyone is created in the image of God, and that together we form a 'family' in which we care about, and for, each other. Therefore when the school needs to make any charges for additional educational activities this is done in a clear and timely fashion, and care is taken to ensure that no child misses out on experiences, or is made to feel embarrassed, because of family hardship.

1. Introduction

1.1 This policy follows guidelines set out in the Education Act 2006 on charging for school activities.

1.2 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. Charges can be made for any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carer wishes to own them.

1.3 Charges may be made for some activities that are known as "optional extras". These can include education provided outside of school time that is not part of the National Curriculum and examination fees such as grade exams in music. These costs should not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity. Participation in any optional activity is on the basis of parental choice.

1.4 The school can make a charge to cover the cost of materials/ingredients for areas such as design and technology and cooking where the parents/carers have said beforehand that they would like their child to bring home the finished product.

1.5 The school makes great efforts to apply for grant aid for many optional extras and school trips and has considerable success, although the amount of grant aid available is shrinking due to the economic recession. The school will also encourage parents to apply individually to charities such as the Walcott Trust when this is appropriate.

2. Voluntary contributions

2.1 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/carers have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

2.2 If a parent/carer 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/carers have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

2.3 The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents/ carers. This list is not exhaustive.

- Visits to places of interest
- Sporting activities which require transport expenses
- School trips
- Musical events.

2.4 Parents/Carers will be given reasonable advanced notice of proposed visits/activities and school will provide details of how each individual voluntary contribution amount has been determined if requested.

2.5 If a child's behaviour endangers the safety of other children or adults on any school trip then they will be withdrawn from the visit. In this instance, Parents/Carers will be expected to cover any associated travel costs involved for returning the child to school.

3. Residential visits

3.1 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 education. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board, lodging and travel expenses. Parents/carers who are experiencing financial difficulty are invited to write in confidence to, or telephone, the Deputy Head Teacher who will then consider their needs and let them know of any assistance that may be available.

3.2 Parents/Carers will be given advanced notice of proposed residential visit opportunities together with an early indication of charges and staged payments may be arranged where contributions are significant.

4. Music tuition

4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

4.2 Individual music lessons with peripatetic music teachers are charged at cost.

5. Swimming

5.1 Swimming lessons take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. We inform parents/carers when these lessons are to take place.

6. Extended School

6.1 Extended School activities, including breakfast and after-school clubs, are charged at cost.

7 Late Fines

7.1 To cover staffing costs, there is a charge for children who are collected late at the end of the school day or collected late from an after school club or activity.

8 Transport to Extra-Curricular Activities

8.1 Parents/Carers may be charged to cover the transport expenses associated with an extra-curricular activity. Charges for transport will be strictly based on covering actual costs (as defined in legislation) with no profit element.

9 Loss of/ Damage to School Property

9.1 Parents/Carers may be asked to meet the exact costs of repair/replacement of school property that is lost or damaged. This includes musical instruments, reading books, homework folders and reading diaries.