

CHARGING POLICY

LEIGHTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Most education during school hours is free. We charge for very few activities undertaken as part of the National Curriculum. Where appropriate the school may ask for voluntary contributions to enrichment activities. Without voluntary contributions our school would not be able to offer the wide range of opportunities that has been our practice over a number of years.

Introduction

This policy statement outlines the school's procedures for voluntary contributions to cover various school expenditures.

This policy has been developed through discussions with staff and Governors and was approved by the Governing Body in October 2019.

Its purpose is to benefit the children with providing a consistent approach to asking for contributions and to assist staff and parents in their understanding of the action taken.

How do we make this happen?

Voluntary Contributions

When organising school trips or visits to 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 enough 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 always endeavour to allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. If you are unable to pay, or not willing, please talk to the school as we will do our best to help. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school will provide this information on request. Any such decision is at the discretion of the head.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents. The list is not exhaustive:

- Visits to Museums
- Specific Sport Coaching
- Sporting Activities which require transport expenses
- Outdoor Adventure Activities

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- ❑ Visits to the Theatre
- ❑ School trips
- ❑ Musical events
- ❑ Specialist Language teaching.

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit, we make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging, transport and specialist qualified tutors.

Clubs

A small charge is made for after school clubs in order to provide materials and equipment. Participation in such clubs will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is a necessary pre-requisite for participation in such clubs.

Parents are invited to contact the Headteacher should they have difficulty in paying for a club.

Clubs and activities provided by third parties will be chargeable.

Music Tuition

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

There is a charge for individual or group music tuition. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. The charges for these lessons are directly from the peripatetic teacher. We provide parents with information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year. Parents are asked to pay for the loan of any instruments from the Music service at the Local authority termly.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We ask for payment to cover specialist coaching and for voluntary contributions towards the cost of transport to the swimming pool.

Although many children take part in extra-curricular swimming lessons, school is still required to provide, assess and ensure that the standard is met. Life-saving skills are also taught which help to safeguard each child.

Special Activities

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We may ask for voluntary contributions to cover an extra-ordinary or enrichment activity. Such activities may include visits from a drama group or music ensemble. It may also include coaching for a specific sport from a specialist or for a visiting artist to cover materials and their transport costs. However, we use these charges only to cover the expenses, and not make a profit.

The Headteacher and Governing Body will ensure that:

- Careful consideration is given to making up any shortfall in voluntary contributions from parents from the school's delegated budget.
- If a charge is made for each child, it will not exceed the actual cost.
- In the case of day visits and activities, no child will be excluded because the school has not received a voluntary contribution towards the cost involved.
- Wherever possible, parents are given sufficient notice of forthcoming trips and activities.

Review

This policy is linked to the school Educational Visits policy and will be reviewed every three years or earlier if deemed appropriate.