



# Charging of School Visits and Events Policy

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## **Introduction**

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

## **Voluntary contributions**

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. 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.

The 1988 Education Act draws a distinction between the term `charges` which are considered to be an obligatory cost and `voluntary contributions` which are self-explanatory.

School will budget a significant amount to support all school visits, teachers will be encouraged to take children on 3 visits per academic year, providing they seek permission from EVC/SBM for viability.

Whenever possible, the school will give sufficient notice to allow parent/carers to pay by instalments.

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 will allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity, providing we have written or verbal consent from parent/carer. School will pay additional costs in order to support the visit, and will not make a profit from any 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
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Visits to or by a theatre company
- School trips
- Musical events
- Transport
- Year 6 Leavers Night

## **Residential visits**

If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board, lodging specialised instructors or admission fees. Parents with more than one child eligible to attend the same residential may be offered 2 places at a reduced price.

### **Music tuition**

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

### **Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Year 3 These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum.

We therefore make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and invite them to a meeting before hand to answer any queries they may have

### **Lunch time / After School Sport and Creative Activities**

The school offers additional activities after school and during lunch times. We reserve the right to make a small charge for some of these sessions, to cover the cost of materials and ingredients