



# Charging Policy

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Agreed by governing body: Summer 2018

Review date: Summer 2023

Signed

Chair of Governors:

Headteacher:

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## **Introduction, aims, purpose of policy**

We aim to provide a broad, balanced curriculum for all pupils within our care. However, it is recognised that many educationally valuable activities need to be partly funded by voluntary contributions from parents. Without that financial support, the school would find it impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of educational experiences provided for the pupils.

Whilst this curriculum enrichment is not compulsory these activities are considered to be a valuable part of the education we offer at Chase Bridge. We positively encourage all children to participate and will make every reasonable effort to ensure all are included.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that statutory regulations with regards to charging are met by the school and that there is clarity about aspects for which it is the school's responsibility to fund activities, where it is reasonable to request voluntary contribution and where it is reasonable to pass on a charge to parents.

## **Policy summary**

To provide a broad and enriching curriculum for the children means that on occasion trips, visits and activities may be provided either on-site or off-site for which a cost is attached. In order to provide these additional activities it is necessary for us to ask parents for an annual contribution towards costs and it is recognized that without this contribution these activities would not be possible. However, it is also recognized that some families that are entitled to benefits will need assistance with contributions and the school budgets for this annually to ensure that any overall shortfall can be met. No child will ever be excluded from an activity for financial reasons.

## **Please also refer to the following policies and documents**

- Chapter 23 of A Guide to the Law for School Governors .
- The law on charging for school activities is set out in Sections 449-462 - Education Act 1996

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### **Day and part day educational visits**

Parents are asked to make an annual one off contribution towards the cost of trips, visits and workshops at the beginning of the academic year. This does not cover the cost of the year 5 and 6 residential trips. Every effort will be made to keep these costs reasonable but if insufficient contributions were to be received it is likely that there would be limitations to the activities offered.

### **Residential visits**

Residential trips are currently offered in years 5 and 6 and both provide important educational experiences for the children. Whilst not compulsory they are considered to be a valuable part of the curriculum and as such all children are positively encouraged to take part.

Parents will be asked for contributions to cover the cost of transport, accommodation, food and activities for the duration of the trip. The school will make it clear that parents in receipt of certain benefits, such as free school meals, are entitled to assistance with costs whilst at the same time highlighting the fact that insufficient contributions may result in a trip being cancelled.

The school will endeavour to continue to offer assistance to families experiencing financial difficulty. As such the school will budget on an annual basis to cover a proportion of any anticipated shortfall from contributions made by parents towards the cost of a visit.

### **Swimming lessons**

There will be no charge for swimming lessons as they are an integral part of the curriculum. The school will budget annually to cover the cost of lessons, pool hire and transport.

### **Instrumental and music tuition**

Some instrumental music tuition is provided free of charge during the school day as part of the National Curriculum. The Richmond Music Trust offers additional instrumental tuition during the school day for which they charge. Parents deal directly with the Music Trust for these lessons.