



The Walnuts School – Charging Policy

The Education Reform Act (1988) introduced new provisions on charging for school activities. The purposes of these provisions are:

- to maintain the right to a free school education
- to ensure that activities offered as part of the National Curriculum and wholly within normal school time should be available to all pupils, regardless of their parent's ability or willingness to help meet the cost
- to give educational authorities and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours
- to confirm that schools may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school, either in or outside school hours.

Principles

No charge can be made for education during school hours. The definition of 'education' includes materials, equipment and transport provided by the Local Education Authority or the school to carry pupils between home, the school and activities. 'School hours' are when the school is actually in session.

The Governors believe that educational visits or visitors are an extension to, and an enrichment of the curriculum, and that school trips and practical activities enhance the pupil's learning and broaden their knowledge and experience.

Voluntary Contributions

The Governors have adopted the provisions of the Act, and visits/visitors are sometimes undertaken with the voluntary contributions of parents. These contributions will not exceed the actual cost.

No pupil will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents cannot or will not make a voluntary contribution. The opportunity for parents to pay in instalments will be offered to those who wish to pay in this way.

If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents, this will be explained at the planning stage. If a planned activity has to be cancelled any monies received will be returned.

All parents are invited to contribute to the cost of a daily snack and cooking sessions at The Walnuts. The charge can be found on the attached annex.

Exception

There is an exception to the rule about not charging for activities in school hours. Charges may be made for teaching either an individual pupil, or pupils in groups up

to 4, to play a musical instrument if the teaching is not part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil. Charges for such tuition will be negotiated and approved by the Governors before being made.

Residential Trips

No charge is made for the education or travel cost of a residential activity taking place largely during school time. Charges may be made for board and lodging. Children of parents receiving Income Support or Family Credit have the right to claim free activities.

Activities Outside School Hours

No charge will be made for activities outside school hours that are part of the National Curriculum or religious education, or that form an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination.

For all other activities outside school hours, charges may be levied where the child's participation has been requested and agreed in advance by the parents. Current charges at The Walnuts After-School Clubs and Play Schemes are intended to cover external tutor fees, swimming pool charges, overtime payments to school-based staff, equipment, materials and consumables. Parents may use Short breaks vouchers to pay for After School Clubs and Play Schemes.

Remissions

Parents who have difficulties meeting charges should discuss the matter in confidence with the Headteacher. The Headteacher may, at their discretion, adjust or waive such charges.

Breakages

In cases of loss or damage to school equipment the Headteacher may at his discretion make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merits.

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 will be determined by the Finance Committee. Such charges may be adjusted or waived at the discretion of the Headteacher and each case will be judged on its merits.

Approved by the Governing Body

Date

Signed.....



Charging Policy List of Charges September 2016

School Meals £2 per meal

Snack/Cooking Session £10 per half term

Lettings

Admiral Drive: £15 per hour for Hall, toilets, parents room and reception area.

£10 per hour for staffroom area.

Hertford Place: £15 per hour for Hall and toilets.

Extended Schools

After School Club, Playscheme, Respite and 1:1 Care now come under the umbrella of Walnuts Care. For further details and charges please contact Jerry Aldous on 01908 662288