



Thurlaston CE (Aided) Primary School
Teaching and Living the Christian Way of Life
Building Our Lives on Jesus

Charging Policy

Approved

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| Date | February 2022 |
| Review date | February 2025 |

In accordance with our vision of Teaching and Living the Christian Way of Life: Building our Lives on Jesus, we believe that all should share together and no-one should be disadvantaged because of lack of means.

Principles

Under the provisions of the 1988 Education Act schools may not charge for the following:

- a) educational activities taking place wholly or mainly in school hours
- b) materials, books or equipment used in connection with education during school hours
- c) transport to places where education is to be provided for pupils

Furthermore schools may not charge for the education provided wholly or mainly in out of school time if it is a requirement of the National Curriculum.

However, under section 118 of the Act schools are entitled to invite voluntary contributions from parents for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school.

The Governors of this school support the principle of free school education as a right of all children. They also recognise that the school may incur exceptional costs in organising activities such as swimming or educational visits and in these cases the school's charging policy would invite voluntary contributions from parents. In the past such activities have been supported by parental contributions and governors believe that parents will wish to continue to contribute in this way, so that their children can enjoy as full and broad a curriculum as possible.

Swimming

Swimming takes place on the basis of parental contributions and a clear understanding that school swimming tuition can be maintained only if all parents make a voluntary contribution. In circumstances where insufficient contributions are made to make the activity viable schools are advised to consider whether it should be cancelled.

Educational Visits and Excursions

These should continue in the same way as swimming with parents being invited to make voluntary contributions. All contributions should be received well in advance so that contractual arrangements with third party suppliers, such as coach firms, can be made without loss to the school. (Governors have noted that parents who change their minds and refuse to make voluntary contributions cannot be obliged to honour their original commitments.

Under the provision of the 1988 Act the school may make a charge for board and lodging arising through residential visits, regardless of whether these take place in school time. (Though the act requires that these charges, if made, should be remitted for parents who receive income support or various family benefits.) Under no circumstances may such a charge exceed the actual cost per pupil.)

Music

Under the Charges for Music Tuition ('England) Regulations 2007 charges may be made for music tuition requested by the parents either individually or in groups of any size, provided that tuition is not provided under the first access to the key stage Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme. No charge will be made for any pupil who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.)

The school encourages the learning of a musical instrument. The school will try to facilitate the learning of instruments but the full cost will usually be passed on to parents or they will be invoiced directly by the provider. All contracts are between the provider and the parent. The governors will try to support pupils who have started to learn a musical instrument and who find that they are no longer able to continue with paying the full amounts. This will only be for instruments taught in school and will be at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Extra Curricular Activities

The school provides or facilitates a range of extra curricular activities. Those run by school teaching staff are run on a voluntary basis and no charge will be made. Those provided by externally run organisations will be charged for at full cost unless the school can find funding other than from the schools delegated budget to fund them.

Voluntary Contributions

When inviting voluntary contributions from parents, Governors propose that the school follows the guidance from the Department for Education on "Charging for School Activities" October 2014.

Nothing in legislation prevents the school governing body or local authority from asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the governing body or head teacher will make this clear to parents at the outset. The governing body or head teacher will also make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution.

It is important to note that no child will be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund the visit, or the school cannot fund it from another source, then it must be cancelled. School will ensure that they make this clear to parents. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, then the child will still be given an equal chance to go on the visit.

Parents unable to make Voluntary Contributions

Parents unable to make contributions may have these made for them by government funding or the school's delegated budget. This would be for parents entitled to free school meals (Not Universal Infant Free School Meals). The school will automatically pay for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals (not UIFSM). (See appendix for entitlement)

Publication of the policy

This policy will be published on the school website and is available from the school office.

Policy review

This will be reviewed in 2025 or if there is a significant change in the law.

Appendix

Entitlement for Free School Meals

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances;⁶
- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 (financial year 2013/14);
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- an income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.