

CHARGING POLICY

This policy has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

It is regretted that such a policy needs to exist and it is hoped that the many varied experiences and opportunities provided for pupils will continue. The school will endeavour not to exclude pupils on the basis of cost while at the same time recognising that the level of funding required may not always be available.

The 1988 Act states:

Charges may not be made for any activities which take place in school time, with the exception of individual instrumental music tuition; the 1993 Act extends this to small groups.

Charges can be made for activities provided wholly or mainly outside school hours, as long as these activities are optional extras.

Charges can be made for board and lodging on residential courses.

Parents and others can be invited to make voluntary contributions towards any aspect of the school's work.

Lessons:

All education provided during school hours or twilight hours is free. Exercise books, text books and other materials are provided free. Pupils are expected to have their own pens, pencils, rulers etc. Lost books will be charged for, text books at replacement cost.

Music tuition:

Instrumental music tuition will be charged at a rate agreed annually by the governors. Activities outside school hours:

In compliance with the law charges may be made for activities provided wholly or mainly outside school hours where these activities are 'optional extras'.

Day trips:

Parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution to the costs of such a trip.

Residential trips:

Where these take place largely during school time no compulsory charge can be made for the education given or for the cost of travel. Charges can be made for board and lodging.

Letters to parents

Voluntary contributions will be requested on the understanding that trips can go ahead only if sufficient funds are available.

The wording to be included in all letters shall be as follows:

“The total cost of the trip will be £... per pupil. If there are any problems with paying would you please contact your child’s tutor as soon as possible”.