

# Northern Schools Federation

## CHARGING POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may need to 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. If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event (which is part of the National Curriculum), but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Often the FONS or the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents.

This list is not exhaustive:

- Visits to settings which offer educational experiences
- Visits to the theatre
- Visits by theatre groups in school
- Musical events
- Sporting activities which require transport expenses
- Outdoor adventure activities
- School trips abroad

Sometimes a voluntary charge is made to purchase the materials for Design and Technology in order that the children can take their work home.

### RESIDENTIAL VISITS

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make a charge for the education. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. Parents who receive state benefits can request financial assistance from the governors.

### VISIT REFUNDS

If a child is unable to attend a trip having paid, the school will consider appropriate reimbursement. The amount is dependent on the recovery of money for that individual child (e.g. reimbursement of admission for entry) as well as ensuring that there is no overall major loss for the school.

## **MUSIC TUITION**

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. There is a charge for individual or group music tuition in Key Stage 2 if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The specialist music teachers teach individuals or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

## **SWIMMING**

The school organised swimming lessons for children in Year 5. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity but we do ask for a contribution towards transport costs to and from the swimming pool. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place and we ask parents for this written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Some sporting or other activities provided by school staff before school, during lunch break or after school are provided without charge to parents. Other activities are provided by external companies and a charge is made for these clubs to cover the cost of the specialist coaching.

## **DAMAGE AND LOSS CHARGES**

A charge will be made for any loss or damage to school property caused deliberately by a child.

## **ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY THE FRIENDS OF NORTHERN SCHOOLS**

A voluntary charge may be made for additional activities organised by the school or Friends of Northern Schools during school hours and for fundraising events taking place outside school hours.

Date; March 2016