



Charging Policy

As a Rights Respecting School, the core values of the UNICEF convention on the rights of the child underpin all that we do at Bridge Farm Primary.



Policy Reviewed and agreed at the Finance Committee Meeting dated: 05/03/2019

Policy Ratified by the Full Governing Meeting dated: 26/03/2019

Chair of Finance Committee:..... Date:

Chair of Governors:Date:.....

Next Review date: April 2022

Whilst there is no charge for children's education at this school there are certain extra activities that they may undertake from time to time the cost of which cannot always be met from school funds. The school will ensure that costs charged will be non-profitable.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TUITION:

A parental contribution is required for individual or group instrumental music tuition given by peripatetic teachers under the LA's Instrumental Music Scheme. A charge may also be made for the cost of entering pupils for graded music tests.

SWIMMING:

No charge will be made for swimming lessons provided in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum. A parental contribution is required for transport to and from the baths and may be sought for further swimming lessons beyond the statutory requirements. There is no charge for tests of swimming ability but children may purchase badges and certificates for tests they have passed if they so wish.

PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES: (cookery, pottery, needlework, craft, etc.)

A charge may be made to cover the cost of ingredients or materials when children take home a finished product. A letter is sent to parents at the beginning of each year or term outlining such activities in advance, giving approximate costs and asking if you wish to have the finished articles.

VISITS OUT OF SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS:

While the cost of a very limited number of visits can be met from school funds most of these activities can only be organised if funded from parents' voluntary contributions. Parents are informed of the contribution necessary to ensure a visit takes place. There is no obligation to contribute and pupils would not be prevented from participating if no contribution were made. However, if there were insufficient voluntary contributions to make a visit viable it is unlikely it would be able to take place.

Please note that the school's residential visits fall into this category of activity.

ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL:

A charge may be made for activities in school that enhance and extend the curriculum such as visiting theatre groups.

ACTIVITIES OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS:

Children participate in optional extra-curricular activities, run by members of the school community, voluntarily on the basis that their parents may choose whether or not they participate and, if so, are willing to meet any charges.

Where children take part in after-school clubs or sports teams a charge may be made for entrance, as with Film Club, for transport or for special items required, e.g. an instrument or extra music.

For visits taking place wholly or mainly outside school hours a charge may be made to cover, as appropriate, travel, board and lodging, materials, equipment, entrance fees, insurance costs and the expenses of accompanying teachers.

LETTINGS

Lettings will be charged which include costs i.e. caretakers lettings fees, heating and electrical costs. Currently lettings charges are covered in the Lettings Policy.

LOSS AND DAMAGE:

Parents may be asked to contribute towards the cost of repairing or replacing items lost or damaged wilfully or as a result of misbehaviour by their children.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY:

Any parent who, due to financial difficulty, cannot afford to meet a payment is urged to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. Arrangements already exist for helping such families through subsidies from such funds as may be available and these matters are always dealt with in the strictest confidence. Our first and foremost concern is always the child.

Parents can request a breakdown of any costs relating to charges through the school office.

NON PAYMENT OF AGREED COSTS

In cases where the parent has agreed to pay the identified costs for activities i.e. residential trips, music tuition etc and then relinquish their agreement, the costs will be formally recovered through the schools Debt Management System. If Bristol City Councils Legal Department get involved then the costs to recover the debt will be charged to the parent.