Ravensfield Primary School

Charging Policy

Adopted - May 2020

Reviewed/Approved- November 2022

Next Review -November 2023

Introduction

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

School trips/visits and activities during school time – voluntary contributions

When organising school activities, trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents/carers to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If sufficient voluntary contributions are not made a proposed event will be cancelled unless school is able to cover the shortfall arising from parents/carers unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution. If the event does proceed each child will be allowed to participate fully without discrimination irrespective of contribution circumstances.

Parents/Carers have a right to know how each individual trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities sometimes organized by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums
- Sporting activities – sometimes involving transport expenses;
- Outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre
- musical events

Parents/Carers will be given reasonable advance notice of proposed visits/ activities and school will provide details of how each individual voluntary contribution amount has been determined. Staged payments may be arranged where contributions are significant.

Residential visits - Charges

The school organises a residential visit each year. The event is optional for pupils in Year 6. Pupils wishing to take part in the residential will need to ensure that they pay for the full excursion. Failure to pay may mean the trip cannot go ahead. A savings option is always available.

Parents/Carers will be given advance notice of proposed residential visit opportunities together with an early indication of charges and voluntary contribution requests, staged payments may be arranged where contributions are significant.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this but in some circumstances a small charge will be made if a peripatetic teacher is employed to deliver additional sessions.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity or for associated transport costs. We inform parents where these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

Out of School clubs and activities

The school offers a range of out-of-school clubs – and reserves the right to charge for such sessions to cover the cost of provision where those activities are not directly aimed at providing educational benefit to pupils.

Childcare

Parents/Carers will be responsible for meeting full costs for childcare provided by school or by a partner working with school, including any transport costs for supervised transfer. Parents/Carers may be eligible for financial support towards childcare costs e.g. through Tax Credits. The school will aim to promote financially self-sustainable childcare with full regard to existing provision within the locality.

Loss of/ Damage to School Property

The school encourages all pupils to respect school property at all times. Sometimes an accident occurs and school property is destroyed; no charge is made. However, if a child causes wilful damage or loses resources through carelessness a cost may be incurred. Larger charges commensurate with the item damaged will be determined by Finance Committee.

Transport

We normally charge if children are transported in a minibus or coach to an extra-curricular activity. However, we use these charges only to cover the expenses of the trip, and not to make a profit.

Reading Books

Take Home Reading Books The school provides books for children to read at home with a parent/guardian. It is vital that these are returned in a timely fashion to maintain our stock of 'Take Home' reading books. If books are not returned, school will charge parents/guardians £4.50 which is the cost of a replacement.

Signed …… (Chair of Governors) …….Date

Signed …… (Headteacher)……..Date