



Barcroft Primary School

Charging Policy
2020

Rationale

Barcroft Primary School prides itself on delivering a broad and balanced education through a wide variety of experiences. Many enrichment activities take place in school and some away from it. Some activities take place before and after school and some are residential visits. All activities are designed to ensure that learning is real, vibrant, motivational and exciting.

The Governors recognise that the school's budget share could not possibly finance these activities. They resolve to ask parents for voluntary contributions.

Purpose

The charging provisions of the Education Reform Act 1988 are:

- to maintain the right to free school education
- to establish that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost
- to emphasise that there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to give the school discretion to charge for optional activities.

Guidelines

Residential Visits - charges

1. If the school organises a residential (NB at School's discretion) visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging and may invite voluntary contributions to meet other costs associated with the visit. Parents/Carers who receive specific state benefits may be entitled to claim residential visit costs from the Fishley Trust.

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

2. The Governors stress that payment is voluntary but that upon occasions if enough money is not collected, then a visit/activity/performance may have to be reconsidered and, in extreme cases, cancelled.
3. Please note that the School Fund subsidises all staff costs as well as cover costs whilst staff are away supporting residential visits and that these costs are not part of the final cost requirement from parents.
4. Where possible, refunds will be made, but not where financial commitments have been made by the school with parents fully aware. Where activities have been cancelled by the

school due to lack of enough funds raised, the school will endeavour to return all deposits paid.

5. Although the law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, music lessons are an exception to this rule. Charges may be made for tuition in playing a musical instrument, provided that the teaching is not an essential part of the National Curriculum.
6. Charges in full may be requested for some activities that are known as “optional extras” the charge made cannot exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra. Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choices and a willingness to meet the charges in full.
7. Any parent who is experiencing difficulties with payments should seek advice from the Headteacher whereby arrangements can be made for payment by regular instalments.
8. The school reserves the right to request payment for lost or damaged equipment.

School Fund

We have a voluntary school fund to which parents may contribute. The fund is used to support and enhance the curriculum by subsidising activities in school, visits and to provide extras for children, which cannot be planned for.

Food and Drink

Milk is provided free of charge for children under the age of five years and for all children entitled to have a free school meal in Reception and KS1.

Milk is provided free for all children at lunchtimes

The school subsidises a Healthy Snack service for KS2 children, which allows us to keep the cost to 30p for a snack and/or drink, children from families experiencing difficulties receive this free by making prior arrangements with the school. KS1 already receive free fruit

Extended School Services

Breakfast Club/After-School Club.

The school offers the following additional Extended School facilities:

- Breakfast Club
- After-School Club

We make a charge of £4.00 per hour for before club and 2 hour after school club for a charge of £6.00 to cover costs. The children who attend meet this cost. Attendance is voluntary. Charges will be reviewed annually in accordance with inflation.

Nursery Care

The school offers the 30 hours free childcare to those that qualify and are charged £3.00 per day to cover lunchtime care for each full day that they attend. Parents/Carers are aware this is nonrefundable if their child does not attend. The school also offer wraparound care for nursery with a charge of £12 per day.

Activities Free of Charge

Some activities in school are provided **free of charge**, for example:

- After School activities led by school teaching and support staff
- Holiday tuition to prepare for tests
- Music tuition by Peripatetic musicians for Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 pupils
- A swimming programme for KS2 pupils
- Shows presented by theatre groups at school

These activities are funded either from the School Budget or from School Fund.

Other charges

Private Photocopying

The Governors agreed a charge to be levied for private photocopying (this will be the same as the Walsall M.B.C cost per copy)

Income from Sales – Non profit making

Some goods may be purchased through the school for the convenience of parents, pupils or teaching staff. Goods in this category include school uniform, Swimming hats, revision books etc.

Income from Sales – profit making

Some goods will be sold through the school with the intention of making a profit and thus raising money for the school or other charitable organisations. Goods in this category include school photographs, bring and buy items, etc which may be subject to VAT.

Income from Donations

From time to time, the school will seek voluntary donations for specific purposes. This may be via non-uniform days, sponsorship, etc. It will be made clear at the time of asking that such donations are voluntary and the purpose for which the donations will be used.

Responsibilities

Authority for day-to-day management of the policy is delegated to the Headteacher who will determine the costs of activities other than those set by the Governors.

The Charging Policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body and should include updates for any Extended Schools Services.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on an annual basis.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on July 2020

It is due for review on.....July 2021..... (Up to 12 months from the above date)

Signature: Date:

Head teacher

Signature: Date:

Chair of Governors