

EASTCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR CHARGING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The school wishes to provide for all pupils the best possible educational opportunities available within funds allocated by the Education Authority. The law states very clearly that education during normal school hours is free of any compulsory charge to parents and the school warmly endorses that principle and is committed to uphold the legal requirements.

It is recognised however, that many educationally valuable activities have been and will be dependent on financial contributions in whole or in part from parents. Without the financial support, the school would find it quite impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of the educational programme provided for pupils. The school's concern is to keep financial contributions to a reasonable minimum and to ensure as far as possible that all children are able to take part, irrespective of their circumstances.

The law recognises that charges may be made to parents in certain defined circumstances – provided that each school has identified the activities for which charges will be made and has explained the basis on which charges may be reduced or waived for certain pupils. The Governing Body of Eastcombe Primary School has decided that until further notice their policy will be as follows:-

1. Day Visits:
For visits occurring during school time the school will invite a contribution from parents to meet the costs. For visits outside school time, parents will be charged for all allowable costs. *Application to the head.
 2. Residential Visits during school time:
The school will invite contributions from parents to meet costs in addition to the children's board and lodgings. No charge will be made for board and lodgings for children whose parents are receiving Income Support, Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance, Working Families Tax Credit or Disabled Persons Tax Credit. Charges may be waived or reduced for other children whose parents make application to the Head.
 3. Residential Visits outside school time:
Parents will be charged for the full cost of the visit, including all allowable costs * and board and lodging. Charges may be waived or reduced for children whose parents make application to the Head.
- * Allowable costs include:
- a) The pupil's travel and subsistence costs
 - b) Materials, books, instruments and other equipment
 - c) Non-teaching staff
 - d) Costs of teaching staff separately engaged under a contract for services for the visit or activity
 - e) Entrance fees to museums, castles, theatres, etc.
 - f) Insurance costs
4. Any visit required because of recognised public examinations, the National Curriculum or the law on Religious Education:
As for 2. above.
 5. Instrumental Music on individual basis:
Parents are charged for tuition provided individually or to a group of no more than four pupils in a musical instrument (but not vocal tuition) in school hours. A charge is made for the hire of musical instruments used in individual (or small groups) tuition. The charge is reduced in respect of children whose parents are in receipt of Free school meals, Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or Child Tax Credit (where the child tax credit added to total annual taxable income is below £16,190 (Apr 10)).
 6. Classroom Materials

No charge will be made for materials or equipment. However for certain practical activities (Technology, Cookery, etc.) parents may be invited to provide materials or ingredients on a voluntary basis. Where parents would like to possess the finished product the school reserves the right to charge the cost or the supply of the necessary materials.

The Governors of the school are required to keep their policy under review. The review will take place annually at the Resources Committee meeting with a view to making recommendations as necessary. Policy to be ratified by the whole governing body.

July 2013