

FARLEY HILL SCHOOL



Charging for School Activities Policy

Governing Body Responsibility: Resources Committee	Approved: November 24
	Next Review: November 25

The aim of this policy is to ensure clarity for all about which services the school can and will charge for. To ensure that a fair and honest approach is adopted in activities for which charges will be made.

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 music tuition that is provided by Berkshire Maestros who will make their charges directly.

Voluntary Contributions

When organising school trips or visits that enrich the curriculum and education 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 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.

The school funds trips for Pupil Premium children. Parents merely sign 'PP' on trip forms.

Parents have the right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school that require voluntary contributions. This list is not exhaustive.

- Visits to museums
- Sporting Activities which require transport expenses
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Theatre visits
- Musical events

Residential Visits

Schools are permitted to charge for the cost of residential school trips. This cost must not exceed the actual cost of the provision.

Pupils whose parents are in receipt of the following support benefits will, in addition to having free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of the 'board & lodging' element of any residential trip.
Income Support:

- Income Based Job Seekers allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- Child Tax Credit provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income does not exceed £16,190 (or limits per HMRC);
- Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit (We will inform Parents of this information)

The school will also look sympathetically at families who are in financial hardship (but not receiving the above benefits) and will consider the option of spreading the payments over a longer period of time. Individual situations will be taken to the Finance, Staffing and Performance Related Pay Committee for consideration where necessary.

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 / small group music tuition when this is not part of the National Curriculum. This service is provided by Berkshire Maestros and parents are charged directly. Parents of children entitled to free school meals may apply to Berkshire Maestros to have this tuition subsidised.

Clothing

We ask parents to provide their children with school uniform and a P.E. kit. A list of items required is available in our Uniform Policy. We make no charge for specialised clothing used in school.

Absence

If a pupil is unable to make a school trip due to poor health, parents will be unable to claim refund on the charges.

Fundraising activities for charities

The school may from time to time take part in fundraising activities to raise funds for charities not connected with the school at the discretion of the Head Teacher. No child will be treated differently or pressurised for not taking part in the activity or contributing financially or otherwise. The Classroom Teacher may collect financial or other contributions in an open classroom, but will do so in such a way as to not cause embarrassment to any child.

Fundraising activities within school using outside companies

The school may use an outside company to provide a service/workshop that has a fee attached to the output from that workshop (e.g., an art exhibition, school photographs).

The school will inform parents about the activity prior to the activity taking place and will be transparent about the flow of money, how much the school will receive from the transaction, where appropriate. All financial transactions will be dealt with away from the child, e.g., to buy a picture you will need to send money in an envelope the following day.

There will be no incentivising in exchange for money.

Extended day facilities

Morning Drop Off Club and After School Club fees are applied to cover the cost of staff, premises and resources.

Vandalism or deliberate damage

Parents are asked to talk to children about looking after the school environment and property of their peers. If damage occurs parents are informed by the Headteacher and the suggestion of a contribution from pocket money towards repair costs may be made.

Lettings

The school will make its facilities available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing facilities. The scale of charges is determined annually by the Finance Committee.