

Charging for School Activities Education Act 1996 (Section 451)

Schools may invite, but not require, parents/carers to make voluntary contributions to the school's activities in order to enhance what is otherwise provided e.g. school visits or journeys.

Charges may be made for the cost of activities provided outside school hours except where the activity is specifically required by national curriculum legislation.

Schools are prohibited from charging for any activity undertaken within normal school hours except for board and lodging on residential courses.

Voluntary contributions

We cannot charge for activities which are part of the normal day or part of the National Curriculum but we can ask for voluntary contributions.

Examples of circumstance where we might ask for voluntary contributions include:

- Transport to swimming
- Transport on visits
- Admission charges

Why do we need to do this?

We want to offer a wide range of activities to broaden your child's experience, but without parental help we can't afford to do everything we would like.

What happens if I am unwilling to pay?

Your contribution is voluntary. Your child will not be excluded from the activity, or made aware of this. However, if we do not receive enough contributions we may have to cancel the activity.

What happens if I cannot pay?

Parents in receipt of the benefits (see over) may not need to make voluntary contributions. You should write, or speak, to the Head in confidence.

Will my voluntary contribution pay for people who have not paid?

No. We will not ask parents to pay extra to make up the difference for those who have not paid.

Our promise to you:

We will tell you at the beginning if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions.

We will aim to give you at least 4 weeks notice of visits requiring voluntary contributions.

All high cost visits such as residential will have a staggered payment for those that wish.

Optional extras

We will charge for the following:

- Study books or materials if you wish your child to own them.
- Cookery ingredients if your child will bring the result home
- Materials for after-school clubs
- Visits outside the school day e.g. theatre trips
- Music instrument tuition.

All payments must be received before the child may join a visit or take part in an activity.

Residential visits

We would like every child to experience a Residential visit at least once in their time at school.

The costs of board and lodging will be charged for and are not voluntary. Those in receipt of benefits may request support from the school to pay for this. All other charges are voluntary but it is unlikely the residential can go ahead without full payment being received.

Payment by instalments will be arranged for those who would like to pay this way.

Benefits that qualify:

- Universal credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Job-seekers Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Families Tax Credit
- Disabled Person's Tax Credit
- Housing benefit



Haresfield Primary School

Charging Policy

Summary for parents

We aim to provide children with a range of opportunities to enable them to have a rich and exciting education at Haresfield. Our activities are open to all children regardless of income.

Education is provided at the school without compulsory charges to parents. The vast majority of resources and activities will be funded from the school's budget. There are, however, some valuable educational activities which the school cannot provide without seeking some financial support from parents.

Our charging policy has been agreed by the governors and sets out what we will charge for, and how we will help parents on limited incomes.