



Policy on Charging

Approved by:	Board of Directors	Date: March 2024
Last reviewed on:	Spring 2024	
Next review due by:	Spring 2025	

1 Introduction

- 1.1 All the education we provide during normal school hours is at no charge to pupils. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

2 Voluntary contributions

- 2.1 When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. 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.
- 2.2 If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded, and the school provides this information on request.
- 2.3 The following is a list of additional activities, organised 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 which require transport expenses;
 - outdoor adventure activities;
 - school trips abroad;
 - visitor/speakers that come into school

3 Residential visits

- 3.1 If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do suggest a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging, education and travel expenses, although for parents who receive state benefits, there may be some concessions. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through these voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled, and that aspect of the curriculum would have to be covered in other ways. We also offer a 'Smallwood Saving Scheme' whereby parents can deposit small amounts regularly prior to trips so as to spread the cost.

4 Music tuition

- 4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.
- 4.2 There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. The peripatetic teachers make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5 Swimming

- 5.1 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 charge for this activity, but at a subsidised level. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we seek the parents' written permission for their children to take part.

6 Outside Agencies / Specialist Coaching

- 6.1 Smallwood School organise some after school provision which is provided by outside agencies or qualified sports coaches e.g. Football with Port Vale & Cricket. These take place after the normal school day and are charged to meet the costs of employing the qualified staff. Parents can opt to pay for their child to take part.