

THE BIRCHES SCHOOL

CHARGING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum .

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the pupils, 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 have to cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include pupils whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these pupils differently from any others.

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 pupil 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. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organized by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'curricular enhancement'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- musical events.
- visits to zoos/sea life centre etc.
- visits to SPACE

RESIDENTIAL VISIT

If the school organises a residential 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.

SWIMMING

The school organises swimming lessons for all pupils in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons

USE OF FACILITIES BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Any outside agencies using school facilities must sign and agree an Application for Hire document. All outside agencies must provide written details of liability insurance cover before using any of the schools facilities and must operate within the guidelines set out in the Normal Operating Plan and Hydrotherapy Emergency Action Plan. See Charging and Letting policy

Date approved by governors:- January 2015

Date of next review:- January 2016