



Stanley Road Primary School Charging Policy

April 2017

The policy should reinforce the objectives of the charging provisions in the Education Reform Act 1988:

- i. To maintain the right of free school education;
- ii. To establish that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parent's ability or willingness to help meet the cost;
- iii. To emphasize that there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to give LEA and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours; and
- iv. To confirm the right of Leas and schools to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, or in support of any activity organized by the school, whether during or outside school hours.

1. CHARGING FOR ACTIVITIES AND MATERIALS USED IN SUPPORT OF THE CURRICULUM

The Governors reiterate the equal right of access to the whole curriculum by any pupil within the school. This curriculum will be delivered to all pupils without charge. At the same time it is recognized that activities and materials, which could not be made freely available within the scope of existing resources, may enrich the curriculum and these activities and materials will only be available if sufficient voluntary contributions are available from parents.

2. ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CURRICULUM

The Governors recognize that certain activities, whilst lying outside the scope of the school curriculum, do support the education, nurture and development of the pupils. It is the intention of the Governors to charge for such activities, always with the provision that requests for financial support by parents will, under conditions outlined below, be treated sympathetically.

3. DETAILS OF CHARGES TO BE MADE

i. Pupils' Personal Equipment

The provision of clothing is specifically excluded from the Act. Parents will be expected to provide specialist clothing in such areas as uniform, and physical education. A book bag will be provided to the child on entry to the school. However any subsequent book bags must be replaced at a cost. School jumpers and book bags are available from the school office. (Costing Appendix A)

ii Provision of textbooks and writing books/paper

The school will continue to provide such textbooks and writing paper as are required for the teaching and learning of the curriculum. Should such materials, which are issued to pupils, become lost or damaged, and then an appropriate consequence will be put in place. In some cases this may mean that the parent will have to cover the cost of the item.

4. EDUCATIONAL VISITS

i. As part of a school curriculum

There will be no compulsory charge for such activities except in the case of board and lodging on residential visits. At the same time, the Governors recognise that such activities could not be provided out of such resources as exist at the present time. It would thus be the intention of the Governors to seek such **voluntary** contributions from parents as would cover the cost of such activities. Should such contributions be not forthcoming then these activities may not take place and alternative curriculum activities not involving such costs would have to be identified.

In the case of residential visits, the cost of board and lodging will be charged to parents.

ii. As an activity outside the curriculum

Many activities take place, which, whilst not being an essential part of the school or curriculum, do support work inside the curriculum and develop the social and cultural awareness of pupils. The participation in these activities by pupils is largely a matter of parental choice. Where they take place mainly outside the school hours parents will be expected to pay the whole cost of a pupil's participation and this cost may include: travel; board and lodging; materials, books, instruments and other equipment; entrance fees; and insurance costs. Where these activities take place mainly inside school hours then they will be open to all pupils regardless of their parent's ability or willingness to pay. In these cases, a voluntary contribution will be sought from parents, except that if a pupil travels directly from home to the activity the parents will be expected to pay the cost of that travel. If the voluntary contributions so sought fail to cover the whole cost of that activity then it will not take place. The cost of the trip is based on a formula agreed by the governing body. (See Appendix B)

5. PAYMENT FOR DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY

Parents will be expected to pay the replacement cost of school property, which has been damaged by a pupil through negligence or maliciousness. In particular circumstances the school may ask for a contribution to the replacement/repair costs. If it is deemed an appropriate consequence to deal with action of the child.

6. SCHOOL FUNDS AND CASES OF HARDSHIP

Where voluntary contributions to an activity result in surplus finance over and above the cost of the activity, the surplus will be placed in the school fund to support other activities.

It is an over-riding principle of the school that all activities should be available to all pupils and the Governors will endeavor to support pupils in cases of genuine financial difficulty (A committee of the Governors consisting of the Chairperson, the Head teacher, a staff Governor, shall consider such cases and one further Governor appointed by the whole Governing Body. (This committee will also, on behalf of the Governors agree any proposed arrangements for charges to be made to parents and voluntary contributions asked for).

APPENDIX B – COST OF SCHOOL TRIP

The cost of a school trip to parents is calculated by: -

Total cost of coaches divided by 2 (school will subsidise the other half of the cost)
Plus the entrance fee to the place being visited
Divided by the number of children attending the trip

Example

30 children

Cost of coaches £500

Entrance fee £5.00

Cost of coach per child

£500/2= £250

£250 / 30 = £8.33

Plus Entrance fee £5.00

Total cost per child £13.33

(Round up or down to the nearest 0.50p)

£13.50
