



Bellingham First School

Charging Policy

Statement of Policy

In accordance with the provisions of the Education Reform Act (1988), the Circular 2/89 **Charges for School Activities**, Northumberland Local Education Authority agree that education, wholly or mainly during school hours provided in any school maintained by the Authority shall be free of charge.

The charging policy is to be reviewed annually

Essential Visits

A small charge may be made for any visits made by pupils that are essential for the fulfilment of the National Curriculum.

Individual Tuition on a Musical Instrument

There is a charge for individual musical tuition.

If pupils make use of an instrument provided by the Authority, a charge will be made in respect of the maintenance of the instrument.

Voluntary Contributions

The school offers many opportunities for pupils to broaden the range of experience in connection with certain curriculum areas during school hours. Such opportunities might comprise:

- An educational visit to a historical site or place of special interest
- Theatre visits
- Work in an art gallery or museum
- Use of public swimming pools
- Inter school opportunities arising through the mini partnership
- Whole school trips such as the summer trip or pantomime visit

The school invites voluntary contributions from parents for these activities. In accordance with Section 118 of the 1988 Act this contribution is paid to school fund with the exception of swimming which is paid specifically into the budget (swimming code). Parents are made aware that any such contributions are voluntary and that pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not they have made any contribution. The school will have the right to cancel an activity if there are insufficient voluntary contributions to make the activity possible. In certain instances school fund may wholly or partly subsidise a trip through fundraising events, if partly then a contribution from parents may still be asked for.

Where such activities take place outside school hours, these will be regarded as "optional extras". Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and the full charge for the activity may be made.

Residential visits

Charges will be made for board and lodgings for children visiting outdoor education centres.

A child entitled to Free School Meals can also claim financing for residential school trips and offsite visits. (It should be noted that it is free school lunch **eligibility** and not uptake which should be used as the trigger for entitlement to a remission of charges for residential trips)