

Bledlow Ridge School



Charging Policy

Date agreed: October 2021

Review date: October 2024

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs and trips, can make towards a pupils education. The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities.

The school abides by the 1996 Education Act in regard to charging for educational activities. This act states that with the exception of music tuition, all activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time should be available to all pupils without charge, regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to pay. There is no statutory requirement to charge for any educational activity, but schools have discretion to charge for "optional extras" which are provided outside school hours.

Optional extras for which charges will be made:

- Peripatetic Music Tuition
- Ingredients or materials where parents have indicated in advance they wish to own the finished product
- Any activity that takes place out of normal school hours

Parents may be charged for any breakage and damage caused by their children.

Arrangements for any remission of charges:

Where parents are in receipt of the following:

- Income support (IS),
- Income based job seekers allowance (IBJSA),
- An Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (provided the parents are not entitled to Working Tax Credit or their annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue exceeds £16,040),
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999,
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit (GE)

no charges will be made. This is a statutory right. All pupils, with the exception of those pupils whose parents receive the benefits listed above, can be charged for board and lodging on residential visits even where the visit is taking place mainly during school hours.

Voluntary Payments

Under current legislation schools may invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions to make school funds go further. These contributions are to be genuinely voluntary, there will be no obligation to contribute and pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.

However the Governors of Bledlow Ridge School have agreed that unless parents can make these voluntary contributions, including a contribution towards the cost of providing supervision where applicable, activities such as cookery, provision of costumes for plays, theatre trips and educational visits etc. will have to end, because they cannot be financed from the general school's budget. If a parent/carer feels they are unable to make payment immediately or in full, but still wishes to make a payment, they should contact the school office to discuss how this can be arranged.

Families eligible for any remission of charges are not expected to make these voluntary payments.