



Policy Document:
Charging Policy

As adopted by the Governors of North Ridge High School.

Date Reviewed by the Governors:
~~June 2022~~

8th December 2023~~10th~~

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Equalities statement

Under the public sector equality duty, all schools/academies must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; to advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it and to foster good relations across all protected characteristics. This means schools/academies must take into account equality considerations when policies are being developed, adopted and implemented.

1 Introduction

1.1 All education during school hours is free with the exception of individual or group music tuition (see 4 below). We do not charge for any activity undertaken during school hours as part of the National Curriculum.

2 School trips/visits and activities during in school time - voluntary contributions

2.1 When organising school activities, trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents/carers to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If sufficient voluntary contributions are not made a proposed event would be cancelled unless school is able to cover the shortfall arising from parents/carers unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution. If the event does proceed each child would be allowed to participate fully without discrimination irrespective of contribution circumstances.

2.2 Parents/Carers have a right to know how each individual trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

2.3 The following is a list of additional activities sometimes 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 – sometimes involving transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- school trips abroad;
- musical events.

2.4 Parents/Carers will be given reasonable advanced notice of proposed visits/ activities and school will provide details of how each individual voluntary

contribution amount has been determined. Staged payments may be arranged where contributions are significant.

3 Residential visits - Charges

3.1 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 and may invite voluntary contributions to meet other costs associated with the visit.

3.2 Parents/Carers will be given advanced notice of proposed residential visit opportunities together with an early indication of charges and voluntary contribution requests and staged payments may be arranged where contributions are significant.

4 Music tuition

4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

4.2 Visiting music teachers offer individual or small group music tuition at the school which is additional to the National Curriculum. We give parents information about availability of this facility at the start of each academic year and a charge is made for these lessons. Parents/Carers who receive specific state benefits are exempt from charges for music tuition – details will be provided at the time that tuition is offered.

5 Swimming

5.1 The school organises swimming lessons. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity or for associated transport costs. 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.

6 Out of School clubs and activities

6.1 The school reserves the right to charge for such sessions to cover the cost of provision where those activities are not directly aimed at providing educational benefit to pupils. Currently after school and holiday club provision is subsidised and parent/carers are charged a minimal admin fee only.

7 Childcare

7.1 Parents/Carers will be responsible for meeting full costs for childcare provided by school or by a partner working with school, including any transport costs for supervised transfer. Parents/Carers may be eligible for financial support towards childcare costs eg through Working Tax Credits. The school will aim to promote financially self-sustainable childcare with full regard to existing provision within the locality.

8 Transport to Extra-Curricular Activities

8.1 Parents/Carers may be charged to cover the transport expenses associated with the trip an extra-curricular activity. Charges for transport will be strictly based on covering actual costs (as defined in legislation) with no profit element.

9 Loss of/ Damage to School Property

9.1 Parents/Carers may be asked to meet the costs of repair/replacement of school property lost or damaged as a result of a pupil's misbehaviour.