

# **WINTERBOURNE NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL**



# **CHARGING POLICY**

**Agreed by governors:  
Next review:**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018  
September 2019**

## **1. Introduction**

The Education Act 1996 sets out the law on charging for school activities in local authority maintained schools.

## **2. What the school will not charge for**

The school is not allowed by law to charge for certain activities. These include:

- \* education provided during school hours (including any materials, books, instruments or other equipment); and
- \* education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum.

## **3. What the school will charge for**

- \* any materials, books, instruments or equipment where the child's parent wants her/him to own them;
- \* music and vocal tuition which are not an essential part of the National Curriculum; and
- \* optional extras. These include education provided outside school hours which is not part of the National Curriculum and board and lodging for residential visits – calculating parental contributions will take account of the cost of staff going on the visit (but see section 6 below).

## **4. How the cost to parents of an activity is calculated**

The school cannot charge more than the actual cost of providing the activity. In other words parents will not be asked to subsidise the cost for children whose own parents are unable or unwilling to pay the full charge themselves.

## **5. Voluntary contributions**

The law does not prevent schools from asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or for any school activities.

If an activity cannot take place (ie because it cannot be funded) without voluntary contributions the school will make this clear to parents at the outset.

At the same time the school will also make clear i). that parents are not obliged to make a contribution, but ii) that if there are not enough contributions to cover the total cost the activity will be cancelled. This is because the school is not allowed to exclude any child from an activity just because the parents are unable or unwilling to pay).

## **6. Residential visits and remissions**

As stated in section 3 above, the school can charge parents for their child's board and lodging. However, parents in receipt of the following benefits are exempt:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- An income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.

Where it can do so without a disproportionate impact on the budget, the school will bear these costs for families in receipt of the above benefits who want their children to go on the visit. If the school's financial position does not permit this, however, the visit will be cancelled rather than exclude children from the visit just because their parents are unable to pay.