



Toft Hill Primary School

Charging Policy

Adopted by Governing Body – Oct 2020

Signed _____(Chair of Governors)

Signed _____(Headteacher)

Date of review Oct 2022

Toft Hill Primary School Charging Policy

Introduction

All the education we provide during normal school hours is at no additional charge to pupils. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, with the exception of some individual or small-group music tuition.

From time to time, activities such as educational visits, visitors and clubs take place which incur charges. Wherever possible, school will try to subsidise the cost of these activities to reduce prices.

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act schools are prohibited from charging for activities during school hours which are an essential part of the curriculum. However, we may ask for voluntary contributions to help with the cost of certain activities e.g. educational visits during school hours. Parents may be charged for events their children take part in outside the school day e.g. disco, weekend residential visits.

Voluntary contributions

At Toft Hill Primary School we organise school trips, visitors or visits throughout the school year, to enrich the curriculum we offer and to enhance the educational experience of our learners. The school invites parents to contribute towards the cost of some of these events. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, however, we may need to cancel trips, visitors or visits. Where a trip goes ahead or visitors to the school deliver activities to enhance our curriculum, learners whose parents have not paid any contribution will share in the experience. We do not treat these learners differently from any others.

The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive:

- educational visits – transport and entrance costs may be incurred
- sporting activities offered by external providers
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- after-school activities offered by external providers;
- residential visits;
- visitors delivering workshops to the pupils.

We have a range of activities that are offered free of charge and most other activities are subsidised by the school. Some clubs run in school may incur costs for consumables e. Easter craft club.

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time we ask parents to cover the costs of board, lodging and travel. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled.

School will do whatever it can to assist parents with the cost of a residential visit:

- If parents cannot afford the full cost of the visit this may be subsidised e.g. if the child is in receipt of free school meals or by using Sport premium funding to reduce the cost for every child.
- If we are able to raise funds or acquire additional funding to subsidise the costs of these visits then savings will be passed on to parents/carers.

Residential visits may include:

- Beamish Museum overnight camping
- Lockerbie Manor Activity Centre

Music tuition

- All learners study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.
- There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by LA peripatetic music teachers. A contract between the county music service and parents is then issued. There is a cost for such tuition which is charged directly to parents from the county peripatetic music service. School does not enter into this contract other than to give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year. Please contact the Music Service on 0300 262368 for current charges. Children who are entitled to free school meals do not pay for this service

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for pupils in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place.

Transport

For many activities transport is required. At Toft Hill we do not charge for all transport costs other than school visits. A portion of our Sport Premium is used to fund the cost of transport to sporting events.

Monitoring

This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be reviewed every two years.