EASTCROFT PARK CHARGING/REMISSIONS POLICY 2024

The basic principal underlying the 1988 Education Act is that education provided by any school should be free of charge.

1 Introduction

1.1 All education during school hours is free. 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.

2 Voluntary contributions

2.1 When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

2.2 If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

2.3 The following is a list of additional activities, 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 which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- school trips abroad;
- musical events.
- school breakfast club

There is also a voluntary school payment of 50p per week, which helps pay for school trips, visiting performers, Christmas parties etc. Contributions made by individuals will offset the costs of their participation in these activities. Some small scale subsidies can be found, but if insufficient voluntary contributions are forthcoming these additional activities may not take place.

Any parent who may have any difficulty relating to any of the above charged activities are invited to discuss the situation with the headteacher in confidence.

3 Music tuition

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

3.2 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 peripatetic music teachers. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

4 Swimming

4.1 The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Key Stages 1 and 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We therefore make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

6 Remission of charges

6.1 No child is barred from attending because his/her parents have not contributed. Families eligible for benefits and others the head teacher determines are having financial hardship, are not expected or pressured to pay. We keep such information confidential and handle situations discretely.

7 Residential Visits

7.1 If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in 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 suggest a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging, although parents who receive state benefits are exempt from this charge. The headteacher will advise parents of the right to claim free activities if they are receiving these benefits. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through these voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled, and that aspect of the curriculum would have to be covered in other ways.

Signed: Steven Dixon Chair of Governors

Date: April 2024

Review Date April 2025