

School Charging Policy



Black Firs School

Policy for the charging for extra-mural activities

Rational

At Black Firs our learning philosophy supports the need for extracurricular activities, because,

- Importance of first-hand experiences
 - Central how we work with children
 - Understanding comes from experience
 - Can't access full range of experience in School

We define these activities as those which, without the support of parents, we do not have funding to support. Voluntary but realistic contributions will cover costs; will be requested for all Educational visits and activities taking place wholly or mainly out of School time.

- Educational - one chargeable visit a term
 - average £10 term
- Charges will be a parental contribution towards the cost – not the full cost.

However, these are limited in accordance with legislation.

Parents not able to meet these costs may make arrangements with the Headteacher (Educational visits code).

Transport costs

Donations toward the cost of transport will always be passed on charged

Schools and local authorities **can** charge for:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him to own them;
- optional extras (see below); and
- music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see page 4).

Residential Visits

Schools **cannot** charge for:

- education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours;
- education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education; and
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

Ratified by the Governing Body.

Schools **can** charge for:

- board and lodging and the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

When a school informs parents about a forthcoming visit, they should make it clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- support under part VI of the Immigration and 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 and Customs) does not exceed £15,575 (Financial Year 2008/09);
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit; and
- an income related employment and support allowance that was introduced on 27 October 2008.