



Policy on Charging

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At Thorpe Acre Infant School, we aim to provide a broad, balanced curriculum for the children within our care. The Governors support the principle of free school education for all, however, it is recognised that many educationally valuable activities are dependent upon financial contributions, in whole or in part, from parents/ carers. Without this support, the school would not be able to maintain the quality and breadth of educational experiences for its pupils.

2 Voluntary contributions

- 2.1 The school's Governing Body recognise that some activities need additional money to enable them to go ahead, e.g. museum visit, themed experience, theatre trip, outdoor adventurous activities, musical event. When organising school trips, visits or visitors to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, funding the costs (including possible transport) may require parent/ carer contributions.
- 2.2 If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, a letter will be sent home to invite the contribution needed. There is no obligation to contribute and no child will be left out because his/ her family were unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient families make contributions, the activity may have to be cancelled.
- 2.3 Parents and carers have a right to know how each trip is funded and the school can provide this information on request. School sometimes pays 'additional' costs in order to support events/ activities but may also seek to identify other means of funding and ask for donations, e.g. Friends of TAIS (PTA).

3 Residential visits

- 3.1 Families will be informed of the costs involved (i.e. accommodation, meals, instructor-led activities) and charged for the full 'per pupil' cost of the trip. Every effort is made to keep these costs at a reasonable level, including where possible, seeking donations from other sources to cover certain aspects. School offers a part remission, for those parents/ carers who are in receipt of certain means-tested benefits and/ or FSM.

4 Music tuition

- 4.1 All children study music as part of the National curriculum. This may include whole class 'ensemble' tuition. We do not charge for this.
- 4.2 There would be 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. Parents and carers in receipt of state benefits, may make an application for part remission of fees.



5 Art and Design Technology

5.1 Schools are not permitted to charge for materials and equipment needed to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum, though families may wish to provide them voluntarily. However, in cases where parents/ carers may wish to make use of [a] product(s) they may be asked to pay for them, e.g. cooking.

6 Swimming

6.1 The school organises swimming lessons for all pupils over the course of the academic year. These take place in school time and are part of the Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity but we may ask for a voluntary contribution from parents and carers to cover the cost of pool hire (including lifeguard cover). We inform parents and carers when these lessons will be taking place and we seek the written permission of parents or carers for their children to take part.

7 Damages and Breakages

7.1 The school will charge parents/ carers for the repair or replacement of lost or damaged items (equipment or resources belonging to the school), where the loss or damage has resulted from inappropriate behaviour on the part a pupil(s) or the families concerned.

8 Monitoring and review

8.1 This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Governing Body's 'Resource Management' committee and amended as necessary. Any eventuality not covered by this policy, will be considered by the Headteacher and Governors and a decision made in line with the related Local Authority policy.

Signed: _____
(Headteacher)

(Chair of Governors)

Date: 24th March 2016

Review: March 2018