



Charging Policy

Reviewed: May 2019

Signed by Chair of Governors:

Date of next review: May 2020

WESTGATE ACADEMY

Charging Policy

Introduction

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 individual or group music tuition.

Voluntary contributions for activities as part of the Curriculum

Where possible parents/carers will be given three weeks advanced notice of proposed visits/activities and staged payments can be arranged where contributions are significant. Parents/carers have a right to know how each individual trip is funded and the school will provide this information on request. Where there are insufficient funds available, then the trip might be cancelled. However, each trip will be decided on a case by case basis and where possible funding will be sought to ensure trips are not cancelled.

When organising school activities, trips or visits that enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents/carers to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If a parent is unable to or does not wish to make a voluntary contribution, the child is still allowed to participate fully in the trip or activity as long as parental consent has been given.

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, a charge is made for accommodation and meals and voluntary contributions are invited to cover other costs associated with the visit such as transport. Parents/carers who receive specific statement benefits are exempt from charges for board and lodgings and specific details of exemptions will be provided at the time that residential details are notified. Parents/Carers will be given advanced notice of proposed residential visit opportunities together with an early indication of charges and voluntary contribution requests and staged payments where contributions are significant.

If a trip is arranged mainly out of school time (50% or more) and not related to a statutory curriculum purpose a charge can be made for the entire amount, voluntary contributions do not apply, nor do the benefits criteria as the trip would be classed as an optional extra.

Music Tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. Visiting music teachers offer individual or small group music tuition at the school which is additional to the National Curriculum. We give parents information about availability of this facility at the start of each academic year and a charge is made for these lessons. Parents/Carers

who receive specific state benefits pay 50% of charges for music tuition - details will be provided at the time that tuition is offered.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children and these take place in school time. We ask for a voluntary contribution regardless of benefits that families might be receiving to cover the cost of transport to and from the pool, provision of a lifeguard/specialist teacher and the hire of the pool itself. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place and we ask for their written permission for their child to take part in these.

Out of School clubs and activities

The school offers a range of out of school clubs and reserves the right to charge and to allow outside providers to charge for such sessions to cover the cost of provision where those activities are not directly aimed at providing educational benefits to pupils.

Childcare

Parents/Carers are responsible for meeting full costs for childcare provided by a partner working with school. Parents/Carers may be eligible for financial support towards childcare costs eg through Working Tax Credits. The school aims to promote financially sustainable childcare.

Transport to Extra-Curricular Activities

Parents/Carers may be charged to cover the transport expenses associated with an extra-curricular activity. Charges for transport will be strictly based on covering actual costs with no profit element.

Loss of/Damage to School Property

Parents/Carers may be asked to meet the cost of repair/replacement of school property lost or damaged as a result of a pupil's misbehaviour.

Equal Opportunity

We are committed to providing a teaching environment conducive to learning. Each child is valued, respected and challenged regardless of ability, race, gender, religion, social background, culture or disability. The Disability Discrimination Act (2006) requires schools to promote equality of opportunity for all pupils.