Woodcroft Primary School
Charging Policy

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Co-ordinator responsible for the policy in consultation with the staff and governors:

Finance Manager

Reviewed: September 2024
Next Review Date: September 2028

Introduction

The Governors wish to ensure that all pupils have access to all areas of the life of the school, regardless of their parents' ability to pay. This means that education is offered free of charge to all pupils and if the school decides that an activity should take place, it will normally cover the costs. However, a few activities which the school would like to offer involve considerable extra cost and the governors will require parents to make contributions towards those costs if they want those activities to continue.

Day Visits

We do not charge for educational visits that take place during the school day that are part of the National Curriculum or part of Religious Education. We do ask parents or carers to make a voluntary contribution in order to supplement school funds where the school incurs significant costs. No child will be left out of an activity because their parents or carers cannot or will not make a voluntary contribution.
If not enough contributions are received to cover the cost of the activity however, the school may have no option but to cancel the activity in question.

Residential Activities

Parents who wish their child to attend any planned residential activity will be asked to contribute a voluntary amount of £50, this can be paid in instalments if required via Scopay or to the school office.

Remission

Parents who have contributed voluntarily may have a refund if their child is unable to attend a visit through illness. In the case of residential activities the Governors will consider sympathetically cases of genuine financial need and may remit charges.

Vandalism and Loss of School Property

If deliberate vandalism is caused by a child to school property, it is our policy to charge their parent or carer a minimum of 50% of the costs to replace or repair the damage. If school property is misplaced, i.e. a library book, then a contribution will be charged to the child's parent or carer to replace the lost item.

Fines for holiday and lateness

Changes that were made to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 that came into force on 19th August 1st 2024.

The Amended Regulations, make it clear that headteachers **may not** grant **any** leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances. The Governing Body of Woodcroft Primary School has made a decision to impose fines for the holidays booked during term time with immediate effect. This keeps the school in line with Government policy, the Hampshire Code of Conduct and other local schools. A fine of £80 per parent, per child and must be paid within 21 days. If left unpaid it will double to £160 and may result in a court appearance if again, left unpaid. We also have the capacity to fine poor attendance and where pupils are consistently late.