

E21C Trust Primary School

Charging for School Activities Policy

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Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on charging for school activities reflects sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996, which set out the law on charging for school activities which states that no charges may be levied for activities taking place in School time that are:

- a) Provided specifically to fulfil statutory national curriculum requirements
- b) Provided specifically to fulfil religious education requirements
- c) Required specifically as part of a public examination syllabus

The Education Reform Act states that charges may be made for some activities that are known as “optional extras”.

Optional Extras are defined as education provided outside of school time that is:

- a) Not part of the National Curriculum
- b) Not part of Religious Education
- c) Examination entry fees if the registered student has not been prepared for the examinations at the school
- d) Transport that is not required to take the student to school or to other premises where the local authority/The Advisory Body have arranged for the student to be provided with education.
- e) Board and Lodging for a student on a residential visit

In calculating the optional extras an amount may be included in relation to:

- a) Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- b) Non-teaching staff
- c) Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra
- d) The cost, or a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Any charge made in respect of individual students must not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of students participating. All payments must be made in full prior to the trip/activity taking place. Failure to make the full payment may result in the student being withdrawn from the trip/activity and any monies already paid will be forfeited.

Students who are removed from a trip by the school will not receive a refund.

Deposits are non-refundable unless otherwise notified.

Voluntary contributions are invited from parents towards the cost of other activities though no student will be excluded from an activity because of failure to make a voluntary contribution. It may well be that educational visits and journeys can only take place if sufficient voluntary contributions are received to make the visit or journey self-financing.

Reimbursement to the school will be expected for any damage to the site (i.e. broken window/graffiti etc.) caused by a student and for any lost library or text books.

Students from backgrounds with financial difficulties may be able to be supported from the Schools' Fund at the discretion of the Head. The Schools are supportive of these students.

Transport

Schools cannot charge for:

- a) Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- b) Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- c) Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the schools.

The overriding principle behind our policy is that wherever possible all students should be able to participate in the full range of the activities offered by the schools.