

Policy on Charging

Last Review Date:	Sept 2025
Next Review Date:	Sept 2026
Reviewed By:	Mr Lee Murley (Headteacher / Chief Executive Officer)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 All the education we provide during normal school hours is at no charge to pupils. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, with the exception of asking parents / carers for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of swimming lessons in Year 5 and some individual or small-group music tuition.

2 Voluntary contributions

- 2.1 When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip or a visit goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.
- 2.2 If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded, and the school provides this information on request. Parents who receive state benefits are exempt from this charge. Where there are known cases of hardship, parents are invited to contact the Headteacher / Chief of Executive Officer in confidence and an agreement will be reached.
- 2.3 The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:
- visits to museums, local places of interest, study centres;
 - sporting activities which require transport expenses;
 - visits to or by a theatre company;
 - possible trip abroad;
 - musical events;
 - food technology;
 - visiting speakers / workshops.

3 Residential visits

- 3.1 We run three residential visits at Seaside which take place in school time, or mainly in school time. No child is disadvantaged from attending the visits on financial grounds, but clearly the trips are not viable if sufficient voluntary contributions are not made to cover the majority of the costs. Parents who receive specific state benefits may be exempt from elements of this charge, but all parents are fully expected to make a suitable voluntary contribution. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through these voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled, and that aspect of the curriculum would have to be covered in other ways.

4 Music tuition

4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

5 Swimming

5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for all children during their time in Key Stage 2. Lessons take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum – this means we expect *all* children to participate in lessons. We offer a series of swimming lessons to our pupils when they are in Year 3 as well as in Year 5. We consider swimming to be an essential life skill and we will not ask for any voluntary contributions at all for swimming sessions for pupils in Year 3 or Year 5, covering the cost of a trained swimming instructors and the use of the pool as well as the cost of transporting the children to and from the pool ourselves. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and parents / carers are asked to give consent via Parentmail for their children to participate.

6 Outside agencies running clubs

6.1 The school sometimes offers additional after school activities and clubs run by external agencies. In these circumstances any charge will be agreed between the parents/carers and the agency running the club.

6.2 We do not ask parents / carers for any contributions towards clubs run by our own Seaside staff.

7 Monitoring and review

7.1 This policy is monitored by the local governing body, and will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if necessary.