



Signed.....
Date.....Oct 2023
Review Oct 2025

Woodford Valley C of E (VA) Primary Academy
Charges, Voluntary Contributions
& Remission Charges Policy

Woodford Valley CE Primary Academy is committed to creating the ethos in which children can grow towards Christian life, learning and love.

Introduction

The legislation governing the charging for school activities as set out in the Education Act 1996 sections 449-462 has been used to devise this policy. It has also been updated in view of the advice given in the Governors Guide to the Law 2006 (chapter 16). All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, only activities that enrich an area and only if this decision is supported by enough parents to make it viable.

Voluntary Contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experiences of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may have to cancel a trip. This is made clear to parents when asking for donations. Parents who may have difficulty in making a voluntary contribution are asked to see the Headteacher in confidence. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently to any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling 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. The school will provide this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- Visits to museums
- Sporting activities which require transport expenses
- Visits to the theatre
- Musical events
- Visiting theatres, dance companies etc
- Life Education Bus

Residential Visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do make a charge for board and lodging. Parents who receive state benefits can request a reduced amount for payment.

Music Tuition

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

There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. There is a charge for these lessons. We give information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children during Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons. We do request voluntary contributions to support the cost of the associated transport.

Out of Hours Sports Coaching

The school offers additional sport coaching after school. A qualified coach, who is not a member of the school staff, runs and organises these sessions. We make a small charge for these sessions.

Monitoring

The Chair of Finance will undertake the monitoring of this policy.