

Tatworth Primary School

Charging Policy

Reviewed by F&P Committee 28 January 2016

Ratified by FGB 11 February 2016

Next Review: February 2018

As a school we believe that live theatre performances, visits and school trips help to enhance the education of our children. We aim to provide a wealth of opportunities for all our children.

Obviously, in line with all other schools, we are unable to fully fund the cost of such experiences and events and we have to rely on our parents to see the benefits of such activities and help to fund them.

The legal position is that Somerset's charging policy stipulates, for events that take place during the school day, we must ask for a 'voluntary contribution' and not a payment. Parents in receipt of any of the following benefits are not required to make a contribution although some choose to do so.

- Income Support (IS)
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit without Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190

The legislation also says that "no child is to be withdrawn from the trip due to there being no payment made". The decision can be made to cancel the trip if it is felt that there are not a significant number of parents who pay. If the trip goes ahead the school has to meet the deficit **from our school budget**. This information can be found on the school website.

The school cannot add any additional money to the cost of the visit in case some parents choose not to send a voluntary contribution. The cost of any school trip is arrived at by calculating the cost of the coach, dividing this by the total number of children in the group and then adding any entrance fee eg.

Cost of coach £180 divided by the number of children in the class 34 = £5.30

Entrance fee £1 per child

Total cost of trip per child = £6.30

Nothing additional can be added to this amount if any parents decide not to make the 'voluntary contribution'.

The school is allowed to charge for music lessons and instrument hire.

The school currently runs one residential experience. Pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits, as listed above, may not be charged for board and lodging costs, although they may choose to make a contribution.

Payment for any activity can be made as a lump sum or instalments provided that the final payment is made before the event. In the case of regular excursions such as swimming, payment may be made in advance as a half term/termly lump sum or may be paid weekly. Refunds will only be available in exceptional circumstances for either method of payment.

It is also the school's practice to refund any balances to parents if there is any difference in the actual cost of the trip against the amount requested. Please note that if the balance is more we will not ask for additional money eg. if one or more children are ill on the day.