

# HEXHAM FIRST SCHOOL

## Charging Policy

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1** All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

### **2 Voluntary contributions**

- 2.1** When organising school or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the visit. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a visit. If 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 visit or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the visit or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each visit is funded. The school provides this information on request. Our PTS contributes half of the cost of each coach used and pays the full cost of the Summer visit for each class.
- 2.3** The following is a list of additional activities organized 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;
  - outdoor adventure activities;
  - visits to the theatre;
  - musical events.

### **3 Residential visits**

- 3.1** 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 not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. Parents who receive state benefits are exempt from payment. All residential visits organised during a week-end or holiday will be charged for.

### **4 Music tuition**

- 4.1** All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.
- 4.2** 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. We make a charge for these lessons. Parents in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

## **5 Swimming**

- 5.1** The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Years 2, 3 and 4. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. 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.

## **6 Sporting Activities**

- 6.1** The school offers additional sporting activities after school or during lunchtimes. Qualified coaches, who are not a member of the school staff, run and organize these sessions. We make a small charge for these sessions.

## **7 Transport**

- 7.1** We normally charge children if they are transported in the minibus to an extra-curricular activity. However, we use these charges only to cover the expenses of the trip, and not to make a profit.

**Signed:** *Fiona Armstrong* **Chair of governors**

**Date:** September 2020      **Review Date:** September 2021