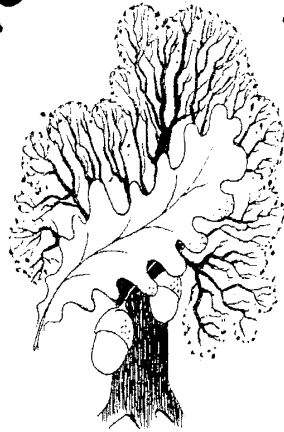


Lavendon School



**Happy children; happy school.
Achieving excellence in education.**

Charging Policy

Reviewed Summer 2 2021

Next review: Summer 2024

Introduction

This policy aims to define the school's position with respect to charging for school activities during and out of school hours.

Lavendon School endorses the principles of the 1988 Education Act in maintaining the right to free education for all children; however the act allows us to request voluntary contributions to broaden children's educational experience.

2. Basic Principles

No charge can be made for education during school hours. The definition of 'education' includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by the Local Authority or the school to carry pupils between the school and the activity.

'School hours' are those when the school is actually in session, and do not include the break in the middle of the day. School trips, visits and practical activities enhance the pupils' learning and broaden their knowledge and experience. These are undertaken with the voluntary contributions of parents. No pupil will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents cannot or will not make a voluntary contribution, although the school reserves the right to cancel an activity if insufficient voluntary contributions are forthcoming.

3. Charging Exceptions

Charges may be made for teaching either an individual pupil, or pupils in groups of up to four, to play a musical instrument if the teaching is not part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil. The current charges are dependent on how much we are charged by the external providers.

We have subsidised the cost of these lessons for pupils, but this will need to be reviewed annually to assess whether this is a viable option. Lessons may not be equally divided amongst the three terms. There will be no refunds for missed lessons. From time to time it may also be necessary to make a small charge for items such as ingredients in food technology or materials for Design and Technology.

4. Voluntary Contributions

Parents may be invited to make voluntary contributions to extend the value of school funds. If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents, this will be explained at the planning stage. If a planned activity has to be cancelled any monies received will be returned. Parents will be asked to make voluntary contributions to school trips, visits or for practical activities such as technology. These contributions will not exceed the actual cost.

5. Residential Activities

No charge is made for education (school staff) or for the cost of travel in connection with a residential activity taking place largely during school time. However voluntary contributions may be requested. Charges will though be made to cover board and lodging.

Children of parents receiving Income Support or Family Credit, have the right to claim free activities. Children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding can be offered a discounted rate or free of charge, depending on the cost of the activity. - 3 - 6.

Breakages

In cases of wilful or malicious damage to equipment or breakages, or loss of school books on loan to children, the headteacher in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body may decide it right to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

In cases of financial difficulty parents should contact the headteacher.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Date approved:	
Date for review:	Summer 2024