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Introduction

In accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 2006 (based on DCSF policy January 09) , the Governors of Wark C of E First School make no charge for education or educational activities during school hours as part of the published curriculum.

However, it is also recognized that a wide range of additional activities, including day visits and residential experiences are a valuable part of pupils' education and it is very difficult to provide such activities out of the school's budget.. Such activities are vital in providing a broad and balanced education and in developing children's personal and social skills. The Governing Body therefore reserve the right to levy charges for the following activities arranged by the school, which will not exceed the cost of the activity.

Activities which take place out of school hours

Any activity or visit which takes place out of school hours is viewed as an optional extra. Parents can choose whether or not their children participate and therefore the full cost will be passed on to parents. This includes sports coaching sessions after school, breakfast club, lunchtime clubs etc.

Activities which take place wholly or partly in school hours.

The school will invite voluntary contributions from parents to allow children to participate in a range of activities identified through curriculum and PSHE planning. These include swimming, educational outings, theatre visits, arts workshops etc. Grant aid may be sought to subsidize such activities or they may be partially funded by 'Friends of the School' funds, school funds or the school's budget where monies are not allocated to more essential priorities. Where it is necessary to make a substantial withdrawal from school funds or the budget, teachers should reconsider priorities before deciding to proceed with the visit.

Teachers will work jointly with parents and governors to ensure that pupils are not treated any differently according to whether or not their parents have made a voluntary contribution towards an activity.

Residential visits

In the case of residential visits, board and lodging charges will be passed on to parents.

Each case will be considered individually for pupils whose families are in receipt of the following:

- Income Support
- Income based jobseeker's allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit
- Family Credit
- Disability Living Allowance

- Universal Credit

The school is anxious that no child should be excluded from such visits for financial reasons and in exceptional circumstances, should a family not meet the above criteria, the school may make efforts to seek financial aid from external sources. Costs incurred by employing teachers for extra hours to accompany children will be met from the school funds or the budget.

Voluntary Contributions may be requested to cover other aspects of the visit eg admission charges, transport.

Materials for lessons

Where finished products are to be taken home, voluntary contributions may be invited from parents for materials, or a request made for the supply of materials. Where parents do not indicate a willingness to own the finished product, materials will be provided free of charge for the child, but finished products will not necessarily become the property of the pupil. Examples of these include items made in Technology.

For further information, please refer to LA Manual of Guidance Appendix A13 and DfEE Circular 2/89

This policy will be reviewed Spring 2021