



Heron

Primary School

Charging Policy

This policy was reviewed in Term 4 2024 and will be reviewed every two years.

HERON PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHARGING POLICY

The school wishes to provide for pupils, the best possible educational opportunities available within the funds allocated. The law states very clearly that education during normal school hours is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents and the school warmly endorses this principle and is committed to these requirements.

It is recognised, however, that many educationally valuable activities have been and will continue to be dependent on financial contributions in whole or in part from parents. Without that financial support, the school would find it quite impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of the educational programme provided for pupils. The school's concern is to keep financial contributions to the minimum and to ensure, as far as possible that all children are able to take part, irrespective of their circumstances.

The law recognises that charges may be made to parents in certain defined circumstances – provided that each school has identified the activities for which charges will be made and has explained the basis on which charges may be reduced or waived for certain pupils.

The Governing Body of Heron Primary School has decided that until further notice its School Charging Policy will be as follows: -

- 1. Day visits*** For visits occurring during school time the school will invite a voluntary contribution from parents to meet costs. For visits outside school time, parents will be charged for all allowable costs.
- 2. Swimming** Children in specified year groups take swimming lessons during each academic year. For this, parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the lessons. A letter is sent out giving details of the cost.
- 3. Residential visits during school time*** The school will invite voluntary contributions from parents to meet costs other than the children's board and lodgings, for which charges are allowable.

** Charges may be waived or reduced for children whose parents have financial difficulties in meeting the full cost. In such circumstances parents who wish to discuss this further should contact the Headteacher in confidence.*

If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it must be cancelled. School must ensure that they make this clear to parents.

4. **Any visit required because of recognised public examinations, the National Curriculum or the law on Religious Education** (*as for No.2 on page 1*)
5. **Classroom Materials** No charge will be made for materials or equipment. However, for certain practical activities (Design Technology, Cookery, etc) parents will be invited to pay a nominal amount on a voluntary basis, or to supply the required materials or ingredients.
6. **Reviewing the Policy** The Governors of the school are required to keep their policy under review. The review will take place every two years.

* **Allowable costs include:**

- (a) The pupil's travel and subsistence costs
- (b) Materials, books, instruments and other equipment
- (c) Non-Teaching staff
- (d) Costs for Teaching Staff where separately engaged under a contract for services for the visit or activity
- (e) Entrance fees to museums, castles, theatres, etc
- (f) Insurance costs