



SOUTH WEST SCHOOLS' FEDERATION CHARGING POLICY

The South West Schools' Federation aims to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that is enriched through a wide variety of additional experiences. They take place both on and off the school site and all activities are chosen to support the children's learning and the federation's ethos.

The Education Act 1996 clarifies the activities for which charges can be made or voluntary contributions sought and give schools the discretion to charge for optional activities, provided wholly or mainly out of school hours and the right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school whether during or after school hours.

Objectives

The objectives of the Charging Policy are:

- To ensure activities offered in school time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost
- To identify those activities for which charges may be levied
- To invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school in support of any activities organised by the school either during or outside school hours

Charges

The Governing Body reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances allowed by the Act:

- The Provision of music tuition given to children as individuals or in groups, except where it is to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or requirements specified in the syllabus for a public exam
- Activities which take place outside school hours and which are not a statutory part of the National Curriculum
- Ingredients and materials for cooking, Art, Craft, Design and Technology activities
- Activities which involve children in nights away from home will include charges for board and lodgings

Voluntary Contributions

- When organising school trips which take place during the school day and/or enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary; however should we not receive sufficient contributions to make the trip viable, it might be cancelled. If a trip goes ahead all children will be included in that trip or activity, even if their parents have not made a voluntary contribution

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- The federation organises swimming lessons for children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. Parents are invited to make voluntary contributions towards the actual cost of these lessons and to the cost of transport to and from the pool

Summary

The Governing Body aim to:

- Provide as many free of charge activities throughout the year as possible
- To apply Best Practice and Value for Money principles when arranging school trips and activities
- To ensure that no child will be excluded from a trip or activity, because the school has not received a voluntary contribution towards the cost involved

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