

## MERE SCHOOL

### Charging Policy

The Governing Body:

- may not charge for any activities which take place in school time, apart from instrumental tuition for individual pupils or pupils in groups of up to 4;
- must draw up a charging policy that meets the requirements of the law;
- may invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions towards any part of the school's work;
- may charge for activities that are provided wholly or mainly outside school hours, as long as these activities are optional extras;
- may charge for boarding and lodging on residential courses.

#### Education during school hours

No charge can be made for admitting pupils to maintained schools. Education provided during school hours must be free. This includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by the school to carry pupils between the school and an activity. 'School hours' are those hours when the school is actually in session, and do not include the break in the middle of the day.

#### Musical instrument tuition

Charges may be made for teaching either an individual pupil, or pupils in a group of up to 4, to play a musical instrument, if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum being followed by the pupil.

#### Voluntary contributions

A voluntary contribution from the parents may be asked for towards the cost of:

- any activity which takes place during school hours,
- school equipment,
- school funds generally.

The contribution must be genuinely voluntary and the children of the parents who do not contribute will not be discriminated against. Where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible, and there is no way to make up the shortfall, then it must be cancelled.

#### Residential Trips

The Governors are able to charge parents for board and lodging costs for residential trips, except for parents who receive:

- Income Support,
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance,
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act,
- Child Tax Credit (provided not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, does not exceed £14,155),
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit.

These parents must have board and lodging costs remitted to them if the trip takes place mainly during school hours. Fees for residential trips (rather than the cost of board and lodging) may not be charged to such parents even if the trip is outside school hours, but is part of the National Curriculum or the syllabus for religious education.

