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CHARGING POLICY

Rationale

The charging provisions of the Education Act 1996 apply to all maintained schools. The underlying principle is that education should be free of charge if it takes place wholly or mainly within school hours i.e. the hours a school is in session. Local Authorities and Governing Bodies are required to adopt a charging policy, which must be kept under review. It is the purpose of this policy to outline the occasions on which charges may be made and how they are to be remitted.

Aims

To provide clarity and guidance to staff, parents and carers on what are permissible and what are prohibited charges for school activities.

Guidelines

➢ Prohibited Charges

There is a total prohibition on charging for:-

- admission to a maintained school
- the National Curriculum
- anything required as part of the syllabus for a prescribed examination (e.g. GCSEs)
- examination entry fees
- Religious Education
- provision of books, equipment, materials or transport in relation to any activity that cannot itself be charged for
- non-residential educational school trips.

➢ Permissible Charges

Charging is permitted for:-

- instrumental music tuition
- residential school trips (staying one or more nights away)
- "optional extras" (activities which by definition takes place outside of school hours). Participation in such activities is dependent on parental choice e.g afterschool club
- the costs of damage e.g. a broken window defaced or lost school property for which a pupil is responsible

General Points

When writing to parents and carers regarding a financial contribution towards a school-based event/activity, staff must ensure that a 'voluntary contribution' is requested. Whilst a contribution towards the cost may be requested, it must be made clear to parents that they are under no obligation to contribute. If a trip is dependent on voluntary funding and insufficient funds are raised, the trip can be cancelled. Parents will be advised on these situations, that such trips can only go ahead if sufficient income is generated.

Eco-Schools

iNet
International Networking for Educational Transformation

Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes
Cynlluniau Ysgolion Iach - Rhwydwaith Cymru

ACTIVE MARC CYMRU
2010-13

BRITISH COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD
2012–2015

Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

Marc Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales Mark

AUTISM ACCREDITATION