

Hurworth School

Charges for Activities Policy

Accepted by: Governing Body – February 2008

Senior Leadership Team Lead Reviewer: Ann Kennedy

Review Cycle: 3 Years

Date for Review: February 2011

General

In drawing up this policy the Governors wish to ensure that the School maintains the level of activities which parental support has always made available in the past. Accordingly, the School will seek to fund as many activities as possible through voluntary contributions, in the belief that otherwise the number of such activities will be substantially reduced.

In addition, where the Act allows, charges will be made.

Voluntary Contributions

Under the terms of the 1988 Education Reform Act, schools are in no way restricted in seeking voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any school activity, whether during or outside school hours, residential or non-residential.

The Governors see these contributions as being of two kinds:

- (a) Those made in response to a general fund-raising effort, e.g.: the annual school fund.

These sums will be placed in the School Fund Account and used as in the past to subsidise some school activities of all kinds, but not normally to fund a specific activity in its entirety.

- (b) Those made with a particular visit in mind e.g.: to the theatre.
In each case, the letter informing parents of the proposed activity will make it clear that there is no obligation to contribute and that no student will be omitted because parents might be unwilling or unable to contribute. However, it will also be made clear that where the individual cost of an activity is low the Governors may, on the advice of the Head, allow remission of the charge, but where the individual cost of the activity is high voluntary contributions will need to be sufficient to cover the costs of the activity, otherwise it will be necessary to cancel.

Charging

The 1988 Education Reform Act allows charges to be made in the following circumstances:

- (a) Optional extras – activities which are not related to the National Curriculum or to prescribed public examinations and which take place out of school time.
- (b) Individual instrumental tuition – provided that it is not related to the National Curriculum or to prescribed public examinations.
- (c) Materials used in craft subjects – subject to the parents having agreed in advance that they wish to own the finished product.
- (d) Board and lodging charges - at any time (in school time or otherwise), subject to full remission to those parents in receipt of Income Support or Family Credit benefits for residential visits deemed to take place in “school time”.
- (e) Examinations entry fees – of three kinds: public examinations not prescribed in regulations; prescribed public examinations where the student has not been prepared by the school; re-sits of prescribed public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school.
- (f) To cover the cost of damages, breakages, losses and defacement.

Remission

The Act required that full remission of charges board and lodging be made for students whose parents receive Income Support or Family Credit and:

- Who take part in a residential visit deemed to be in school hours; or
- Who take part in a residential visit, in or out of school hours, which is to fulfil any requirements specified in the syllabus for a prescribed examination or to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to fulfil statutory duties relating to religious education.

Otherwise, the funds for remission must come from school budgets. In accordance with the general principles underlying the School’s own policy, the Governors will seek to ensure that any such visits are financed through voluntary contributions as set out in Section 2 above.

Review

Will be held in line with other policy documents