

# GREEN GATES PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Charging Policy

Revised: October 2017  
Review: October 2019

## **Introduction**

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, with the exception of some individual or small-group music tuition. However, a voluntary contribution may be asked towards some visits and any transport needed.

## **Voluntary Contributions**

Green Gates Primary School endorses the principles of the 1988 Education Act in maintaining the right to free education for all children. The act allows us to request voluntary contributions to broaden children's educational experience. Non-contribution would not prejudice a pupil's place, however, unless most parents were prepared to make a contribution the school may have to cancel the activity. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others. Such enriching activities are an important aspect in supporting the curriculum.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums
- outdoor adventure activities
- visits to or by a theatre company
- musical events

## **Residential Trips**

Such trips necessitate a higher level of funding but are invaluable in giving the children first hand educational experiences and in helping them to develop greater self-confidence and awareness of others. Since the introduction of the pupil premium grant, school has allocated funding from this grant within the budget to help reduce the cost to parents. Parents are asked to pay at least half of the cost of the total trip. Payments can be made in instalments at parent's convenience.

Voluntary contributions will, in all circumstances, be invited through individual letters to parents.

## **Damage to Property**

The school will cover accidental breakages of school property. Deliberate or wilful acts which result in breakage or damage to school property will be charged for at a rate appropriate to replacement costs.

## **Music Tuition**

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

There is a charge for individual or small-group tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. Tees Valley Music Service makes a charge for these lessons, but parents in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

### **Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for Key Stage 2 children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place. There is no charge to parents.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Governing Body and will be reviewed in two years or earlier if necessary.