

ST. MICHAEL'S C.E. V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL - BISHOP'S STORTFORD

CHARGING POLICY

Voluntary Contributions

The Headteacher or Governing Body may ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of:

Swimming

The Governors consider swimming to be an important part of the children's education. At St. Michael's we wish to provide opportunities for the pupils to go beyond the simple minimum National Curriculum requirements. To enable us to do this, parents are asked for a voluntary contribution to help cover the cost of tuition at and transport to the pool at Grange Paddocks. A quarter of the transport costs will be subsidised from PTA funds.

Visiting Theatres, Musicians Etc.

The Governors consider specialist visitors to be both valuable and stimulating to primary aged children, opening further doors for them and providing them with quality theatre, music or information. The school will ask parents for voluntary contributions with the aim of covering the full cost.

Ingredients/materials

The school will be providing materials for children to do needlework, cookery, model making etc. during the school day as part of the National Curriculum. The Governors request that contributions be made to help cover the cost of the ingredients/materials if parents would like the finished article to be brought home.

Education Day Visits

The Governors consider day trips to be an important part of the curriculum. Parents of children taking part in the trip may be asked for voluntary contributions. These, if paid in full, should cover the whole cost the trip.

The contributions towards activities must be genuinely voluntary, though, and the pupils of parents who are unable or unwilling to 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 will be cancelled.

Charging

Visits and Activities Outside School Hours

The school may make a charge for any activity provided for the children which takes place outside school hours. This charge may include travel costs, materials, books, supervision and instruction.

Residential Trips

The School will charge for the cost of board and lodging during residential school trips, even if they occur mainly during school time. This cost must not exceed the actual cost of the provision. The school governors will request a voluntary donation towards the cost of travel.

Where the trip takes place wholly, or mainly, during school hours, children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of the charge for board and lodging:

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;

Child Tax Credit provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income, assessed by the Inland revenue, does not exceed the published Government guidelines, the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

Regular Giving Fund

In common with many schools, the Governors will seek a voluntary contribution per family to enhance the School's educational resources. The School is subscribing to the Gift Aid Scheme and parents are encouraged to participate.

Instrumental Music Lessons

A charge is permitted for instrumental music tuition undertaken in school hours for up to and including six pupils.

The Authority operates a remission policy in relation to individual tuition in playing a musical instrument. Details of the current scheme are available from:

Financial Help

Hertfordshire County Council

Children, Schools and Families

PO Box 153

Stevenage SG1 2GH

Telephone No. 01438 737370

Wider Opportunities Music

A charge is permitted for whole class music tuition in Year 4 for Guitar lessons undertaken in school hours. Half of this cost will be subsidised from the PTA funds.