



Introduction

The Governing Body of Willow Grove School adhere to the principles contained within section 457 of the Education Act 1996 that requires that every governing body of a maintained school shall determine and keep under review a policy for charges in connection with "Education" at that school.

This policy statement makes the distinction between those activities undertaken at Willow Grove School for which the governing body is prohibited from charging for the service provided and those activities/services for which it is permitted to levy charges.

Governors recognise the valuable contribution which activities outside, or apart from the curriculum, play in the overall development of children and aim to promote and provide such activities to enhance the curriculum and social experience.

Principles

The Governing Body of Willow Grove School reserve the right to charge for:

- materials or ingredients where parents have previously indicated a wish to own the finished product. In most circumstances, such materials will be provided by the school;
- optional extras, e.g. music tuition, where the tuition is provided individually or to a group of not more than 4 pupils and participation is on the basis of parental choice;
- board, lodging and transport for residential visits;
- the cost of repair/replacement for deliberately damaged equipment or parts of the building;
- provision of extra curricular activities e.g. sports or other clubs.

The Governing Body of Willow Grove School will not charge for:

- admissions to the school;
- education within normal school hours;
- materials and books in connection with statutory education.

Voluntary Contributions

The Governing Body will invite parents/carers to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of school activities and journeys. Children will not be prevented from taking part in such events if they do not contribute, however if insufficient voluntary contributions are received the whole activity may be cancelled.

Remissions and Financial Assistance

The Governing Body will meet (in whole or part) any charge due to the school/LA for the cost of optional extras or payable board and lodging for a registered pupil at the school if the parent are entitled to state income benefits.

Children of low income families will not be disadvantaged in any way. No child is prevented from taking part in any activity due to the inability of his/her parents to pay.