

## **Introduction:**

The Governing Body of Knowles Primary School recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs and visits, can make towards a pupils education. The aim is to promote and provide such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of Knowles Primary School and as additional optional activities. The relevant statutory provisions are contained in Chapter III of Pt VI of the Education Act 1996. This requires the Governing Body to determine and keep under review a Charging and Remissions Policy. Parents have a right to ask for this information and a summary must be included in the school prospectus. Knowles Primary School must also comply with the Buckinghamshire County Council Scheme for Financing Schools, Finance Section F7 Charges for Educational Activities.

There are two types of financial contributions for which parents can be asked for in relation to educational activities. These are:

Voluntary contributions

Permitted charges

The different limitations as set out below:

**Voluntary Contributions:** There is no limit to the level of voluntary contribution that may be asked for or any restriction on the way in which it is used. Voluntary contributions can be used to subsidise parents of pupils who are unwilling or unable to pay the charges made and to pay the travel and accommodation costs of accompanying teachers or adults. Letters requesting a voluntary contribution for an activity must indicate that there is no obligation to contribute and that pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request or invitation.

**Permitted Charges:** Permitted charges are a direct request to cover certain costs involved with a school activity or visit. No charge can be made in respect of education provided during school hours (which excludes the midday break). Furthermore, no charge can be made for any education provided outside of school hours if this forms part of the syllabus for a public exam, or as part of the National Curriculum or religious education (non-chargeable education). A charge may be made for board and lodgings on any residential educational visit (subject to the provisions of the LA and school's remissions policy).

## **1 Materials & Textbooks**

Where a pupil or parent wishes to retain items produced as a result of art, craft and design, or design and technology, a charge may be levied for the cost of the materials used. In the case of Food Technology, pupils usually provide their own ingredients, but if the pupil forgets, the school provides the ingredients and levies a charge. Textbooks are provided free of charge, but in some subjects, additional revision guides are available, for which a charge is made.

## **2 Music Tuition**

Charges in respect of individual music tuition are levied directly by the music teachers.

### **3 Residential Activities/Activities Outside School Hours**

If the activity is held outside school hours and is education other than non-chargeable education, then it is regarded as an "optional extra". A charge may be made for the full cost of the activity but must not exceed the actual cost of providing the activity. The charge may include the costs of travel, board and lodgings, additional staff costs, entrance fees, insurance, materials and equipment. However, the charge made to individual parents cannot include any cost added to subsidise parents of children who are unwilling or unable to pay the charge.

**When an activity is held in school hours? A day visit** is in school hours if: 50% or more of the total time (including travelling) occurs in school hours. As mentioned above school hours do not include the normal midday break.

**A residential visit** is in school hours if: The number of school sessions missed is 50% or more than the number of half days spent on the visit (including travel). A school session equates to a registration session (i.e. 2 per day). A half-day is a 12 hour period ending at midday or midnight.

**4 Examination Entries** A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for pupils where the school has not prepared the pupil for the examination. A charge will be levied in respect of examination entries for pupils where - the school has prepared the pupil for the examination and - it considers that for educational reasons the pupil should not be entered and - the pupil's parent/guardian wishes the pupil to be entered. In these circumstances, if the pupil subsequently passes the examination, the school may refund the cost. A charge may be levied for pupils re-sitting an examination. A charge will be levied where a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of any public examination where the school paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.

**5 Damage/Loss to Property** A charge will be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of school property (including premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials), the charge will be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Head teacher may decide.

**6 Lettings** The school will make its facilities available to outside users at a charge of at least the cost of providing the facilities. The scale of charges will be determined annually by the Resource & Finance Committee and approved by the Governing Body.

**7 Other charges** The Head teacher, Resource & Finance Committee or Governing Body may levy charges for miscellaneous services up to the cost of providing such services e.g. for providing a copy of an OFSTED report.

### **Remissions Policy**

Where non-chargeable education is provided during a residential visit, then the parents of a pupil who is eligible for free school lunch shall receive a complete remission of any charges that would otherwise be payable in respect of board or lodgings. Under current regulations children whose parents receive the following support payments are eligible for free school meals:

Income support

Income based job seekers allowance

Child Tax Credit except if the parent meets ANY of the following criteria -

- i) Entitled to working tax credit (regardless of income)
- ii) Have an annual income in excess of £16040 (Please note that this figure is for April 2009 and that changes in April each year).

Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Where charges are to be made by the governing body for optional extras, parents may receive a remission for the whole or part of the charge as determined by the Governing Body before each visit.