

Gwenfro Community Primary School



Charging Policy 2017/2018

Agreed by the Governing Body:

Review date: February 2017

Signed:

Chair of Governors:

Gwenfro Community Primary School

Policy on Charging for School Activities

This charging policy will set out the school's procedure with regards to charging parents for educational visits and trips.

All education during school hours (8:45 - 15:05) is free. When organising school trips to enrich learning at Gwenfro Community Primary School the school does ask parents for voluntary contributions. This is to cover transport and sometimes entry fees. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions this could impact upon the viability of the visit and could result in cancellation.

No charge will be made for:

Education in School

- Education provided wholly or mainly during school hours.
- Admission to school for children of compulsory school age.
- Activities which are part of the National Curriculum or Religious Education.
- The supply of any materials, books and instruments or other equipment.

Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit which is part of the National Curriculum.

Residential visits

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours.
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum or part of religious education.
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

Board and Lodgings

- The cost of board and lodging for residential trips, even when taking place largely during school time. (Pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits are exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging).

Voluntary Contributions

Although we cannot charge for school time activities, voluntary contributions may be sought from parents for activities which supplement the normal school curriculum.

Requests to parents for voluntary contributions will state that:

- there is no legal obligation to make a voluntary contribution;
- pupils will not be excluded through parents' inability or unwillingness to pay;
- pupils of parents who cannot contribute will not be treated any differently; and
- where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible and there is no way to make up the shortfall, the activity will be cancelled.

Should a parent not agree to contribute the voluntary fee but still wishes for their child to participate in the trip then the school will not treat these pupils any differently. We will always allow the child to participate in any activity arranged by the school provided that this is viable.

We will always explain breakdown of costs to parents in a letter home so that they have full knowledge of how the cost is funded.

Remissions

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging of a residential trip:

- a. Income Support.
- b. Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- c. In receipt of any other benefit or allowance, or entitled to any tax credit under the Tax Credits Act 2002 or element of such a tax credit, as may be prescribed by regulations from time to time for any period wholly or partly comprised in the time spent on the trip. Currently the following are prescribed:
support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
Child Tax Credit, providing Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 (for 2011/12) (i.e. children who are eligible to receive free

school meals;

Income Related Employment and Support Allowance.

d. Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit.

The governing body may wish to remit in full or in part, the cost of other activities for parents in certain circumstances.

Breakages and Damage

Where a pupil's behaviour results in damage to school property or equipment, parents may be asked to pay for the necessary repair or replacement. Each incident should be dealt with on its own merit and at the schools discretion.