



Working Together; Achieving More

Charging Policy

Head Teacher: Mr L Chamberlain

Ratified by:	PFP Committee	
Last Reviewed	January 2025	
Next Review Date:	2027	

Olton Primary School

We take pride in providing opportunities for our children at Olton to learn in a variety of different contexts. To enhance learning and broaden our children's understanding of the world, we look for innovative and creative ways to deepen the curriculum with experiences both in and away from school.

School Vision

‘Learning Together, Achieving More’

School Aims

Our school aims to:

- ❖ provide an inviting, exciting and stimulating learning environment;
- ❖ inspire all learners to be happy, resilient and confident in their daily lives;
- ❖ motivate all learners to be the best they can be;
- ❖ promote a culture of respect, kindness and tolerance;
- ❖ develop positive relationships with all members of our community;
- ❖ recognise and celebrate individuality as part of a caring and harmonious school family.

School Values

Our values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning and prepare our pupils as confident, happy citizens. Our school values are:

***Positivity, Responsibility, Empathy,
Perseverance, Respect & Love***

Our School Values are at the heart of everything we do at Olton and we celebrate and exemplify our values in action with our children and adults in our learning community.

Introduction

In accordance with sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 which sets out the law on charging for school activities, it is the policy of the Governing Body to ask for voluntary contributions for extra-curricular activities, tuition or educational visits, which incur costs outside the normal school budget. Parents will also be asked to cover the actual cost of replacing items broken or damaged through carelessness.

Although there is no obligation to contribute towards educational visits, where there are insufficient funds, the activity will be cancelled. Failure to contribute will not affect the treatment of the child, nor will the child be excluded due to inability to pay.

Voluntary contributions for activities as part of the Curriculum

When organising school trips, visits or workshop activities which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the activity. Parents are advised that all contributions are voluntary. Parents are also advised that if insufficient contributions are received, then the activity may be cancelled. As part of our curriculum, we endeavour to look at creative ways to enrich learning by organising workshops, theatre companies and other experiences into school, where they may sometimes be a voluntary contribution requested. We are mindful of the frequency that we may request voluntary contributions and map out planned events at the start of the academic year and share these with our families.

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, the child is still allowed to participate fully in the trip or activity as long as parental consent has been given. If the school does not receive sufficient voluntary contributions to cover the visit, the school reserves the right to cancel the event. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded.

Residential Visits

If Olton Primary school organises any residential visits, the cost of this trip includes board & lodging, transport, materials, entrance to any sites visited and charges for any activities to be experienced. Parents are also advised that if insufficient contributions are received, then the activity may be cancelled. All parents will be given the option of a payment plan to spread the costs of the residential visit.

Music Tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. This charge covers the costs of the package that Olton Primary purchases for peripatetic music teachers to teach individuals or small group lessons on the school site.

We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for Year 4- 6 children. Lessons take place in school time and are a statutory part of the National Curriculum. Parents will be asked for a voluntary contribution towards transport costs and the school will pay for the cost of the lesson from its own budget.

Optional Extra Activities

(Activities which take place wholly or mainly outside school hours and are not required in order to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to Religious Education).

It is the governors' policy to charge for such activities organised by the school. The basis for calculating the charge will be proportionate for each participating pupil for travel, board & lodging, materials, books, equipment, entrance fees and insurance.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive:

- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- school trips abroad;
- musical events

Activities not run by the School or LA

When an organisation acting independently of the school or LA arranges an activity to take place during school hours and parents want their children to join the activity, such organisations may charge parents.

Charging in Kind

The cost of ingredients, materials, equipment etc. needed for practical subjects such as Design and Technology is budgeted for and borne by the school. However, the school may charge for or require the supply of ingredients and materials if the product is to be owned and taken home by the child afterwards e.g. food products, models containing electrical equipment or batteries.

The school will inform parents prior to activities, giving them the choice to pay for materials or purchase their own materials for the activity.

Donations to School Fund

Parents are asked for an annual voluntary contribution of £10.00 per pupil or for parents with siblings across the school, the charge is £15.00 per family to School Fund. This supports consumables and where funds permit subsidising additional enrichment activities. For EYFS a charge of £15 is requested for the academic year or £5 per term to support the higher level of consumables in EYFS. It is made clear to parents that it is a voluntary contribution.

Breakages & Fines

The Governors reserve the right to ask parents to pay for the cost of replacing any item such as:

- broken windows;
- defaced, damaged or lost text books;
- replacement reading or homework diaries; and
- any item damaged as a result of unsatisfactory pupil behaviour.

Special Needs/ Equality

The governing body confirms that no pupil with special needs or disabilities will be treated any differently than any other pupil. Olton Primary School prides itself on its inclusivity and ensuring that all children are treated fairly and equally. The school will take all reasonable steps to avoid putting children with special needs at a substantial disadvantage or any other pupil that may be disadvantaged.

Review

This Policy has been agreed by the Premises, Finance & Personnel Committee.

Date: 17th January 2025