

West Exe Children's Centre

Charging Policy

The Governors of West Exe Children's Centre support the right of every child to free nursery education and endorses established practice that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching times should be available to all pupils regardless of their parent's ability or willingness to help meet the cost.

The Governors confirm the right of the nursery to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the nursery or in support of any activity organised by the nursery whether during or outside nursery hours.

The following list gives instances where parents may be requested to make a voluntary contribution:

- Outside visits during nursery hours supporting and extending curriculum exploration are seen by the nursery as a vital part of the child's education. Current funding will prevent such trips taking place unless parents are willing to contribute towards the cost. Letters inviting parents to contribute will stress that there is no obligation to contribute but emphasise that it will be necessary to have substantial voluntary parental contribution in order that the activity takes place. No child will be omitted from a visit because the parents are unwilling to or unable to contribute. The activity will need to be cancelled if a sufficiently high level of voluntary contribution is not forthcoming.
- Practical subjects such as cookery have demanding resource implications. When a parent indicated in advance that they or the pupil wishes to own the finished article incorporating raw materials, a charge equal to the cost of the materials or a charge in kind may be made. Any income generated will be used by the school to purchase raw materials or to offset the expense previously incurred in their purchase.

- Educational visits and activities provided outside nursery hours as an optional extra - As appropriate, the cost will include an element for travel, materials, books, instruments or other equipment, non-teaching staff costs and teaching staff costs (where a teacher or instructor has been engaged specifically to provide the activity), entry fees to castles, theatres etc, and insurance costs. Prior agreement of parents will be obtained and the charge will be determined on the basis of cost to the individual.
- Outside fee charging agencies visiting the nursery - On occasion outside agencies are invited into the nursery, e.g. musicians, poets, authors, wildlife specialists etc, whose charges are often very high. Again letters inviting parents to contribute will stress that there is no obligation to contribute but emphasise that it will be necessary to have substantial voluntary parental contribution if the event is to go ahead. If the voluntary contribution is not sufficient the activity will need to be cancelled.
- Wilful damage to centre property - Where a child wilfully causes damage to the premises or equipment then the parents of that child will be asked to make restitution. However, it is stressed that where accidental damage is caused the cost will be met by the centre.

Renewed:

Next renewal date:

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Chair OF Governing Body