Policy Document R01-25
Charging

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 As a basic principle, education is free, and charges are not made for most aspects of school life. However, the school is involved in a large number of extra-curricular activities, trips, visits and expeditions. Those taking place during the school day are normally either free or heavily subsidised; where the cost exceeds that which the school can afford to fund centrally, then voluntary contributions are sought to cover the additional costs. No student is excluded from participation in any activity as a result of inability to pay. However, if sufficient numbers of students do not contribute, then the activity may not be able to proceed.

2. AIMS

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to set out what charges can and cannot be made for activities in St Teilo's Church in Wales High School.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 None.

4. THE LAW

4.1 Children's rights at St Teilo's are underpinned by the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4.2 Sections 449 to 462 of The Education Act 1996 set out the law regarding what charges can and cannot be made for activities in schools maintained by local authorities.

5. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

5.1 This policy has its basis in the following missional rights of the child:

a. Right II - The right to a broad, balanced and purposeful education.
b. Right V - The right to extra support for the disabled or those with additional learning needs.
c. Right VI - The right to be as healthy and happy as possible.

d. Right VII - The right to learn from and spend time with one's friends.
e. Right VIII - The right to enriching experiences and play.
f. Right IX - The right to be safe around adults and other young people.

6. CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE SCHOOL MAY CHARGE PARENTS

Residential Trips

6.1 The school will charge for the cost of travel, board and lodging during residential school trips. This cost will not exceed the actual cost of the provision.

6.2 Where the trip takes place wholly, or mainly, during school hours, children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be offered remission of these charges upon request:

a. Income support;
b. Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
c. Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
d. Child Tax Credit provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income does not exceed £16,040
e. Guaranteed State Pension Credit

6.3 A similar offer applies upon request where the trip takes place outside of school hours but it is necessary as part of the national curriculum, forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed examination that the school is preparing the student to sit, or the syllabus for religious education.

Instrumental Music Lessons

6.4 The school subsidises the full cost of all instrumental lessons; however, a charge will be made for part of the cost of these lessons. The charges will be payable each term, though parents may opt to pay for a complete year if they so wish.

Entry fees for examinations

6.5 Charges may be made where:

a. The examination is on the set list, but the pupil was not prepared for it at the school.
b. The examination is not on the set list, but the school arranges for the pupil to take it.
c. A pupil fails, without good reason, to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing body originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.
d. A pupil wishes to re-sit an examination.

Breakages and Damage

6.6 Where a student'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 school's discretion.

Uniform, PE kit and equipment

6.7 Parents are asked to equip their child with items of personal equipment intended to be used solely by their child. This includes materials used in practical subjects and project assignments.

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