CHARGING POLICY

Schools have a duty to provide parents with information, regarding what charges can and cannot be made for services provided. This information is available in the Governors' charging policy which is available for parents from the school office.

The objectives of the charging and remissions provisions set out in the legislation are:

- to maintain the right to free school education;
- to establish that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
- to emphasise that there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to give LAs and schools the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours;
- to confirm the right of LAs and schools to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, or in support of any activity organised by the school, whether during or outside school hours.

In summary, the governing board:

- may not charge for any activities which take place in school time, apart from, in certain circumstances, instrumental tuition for individual pupils or pupils in groups of up to four;
- must draw up a charging policy, which does not have to be the same as the Authority's policy as long as it meets the requirements of the law;
- may invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions towards any part of the school's work;
- may charge for activities that are provided wholly or mainly outside school hours, as long as these activities are optional extras;
- may charge for board and lodging on residential courses.

The school prides itself on the wide range of rich activities the children experience from the day they arrive at the school. Many of the trips and visits rely on the parents supporting such events by being willing to contribute towards the costs. Without a good response many activities would need to be cancelled.
We are aware that some parents may experience some difficulties, and if so we encourage them to speak to the class teacher or Mrs Brogan, the discussions of which will be kept fully confidential.