



Charging Policy

Introduction

The Governors of Priory School recognise the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, trips and residential journeys can make towards students' personal and social education. The Governing Body aims to promote such optional extras both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school, and as enrichment activities. Where voluntary contributions are requested, the Governing Body believes that inability to pay should not result in students being excluded from such activities. Where applicable, Pupil Premium and 16 to 19 Bursary funds may be used to contribute towards visits.

Priory School offers a broad and balanced curriculum to all of its students. This involves accessing community-based facilities and activities as well as participating in lessons such as Cooking.

The school funds most educational activities but parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of food technology ingredients and for some educational visits.

No student will be excluded from any part of the curriculum; however, without financial support from parents/carers we would not be able to provide some of these activities.

Students entitled to a free school meal are given the cost of the meal in cash to enable them to buy a meal e.g. at college or out of school on a visit. For some visits, a packed lunch is provided by the school kitchen and individual students can be provided with this if they prefer.

Residential Trips

Some pupils attend residential visits organised by the School. Residential activities are planned with learning objectives aimed at increasing the students' social and independence skills. Residential trips are deemed to be of value to students' development and learning and as such, the School will seek to ensure that cost does not exclude any students.

Participation on trips is at the discretion of parents and we make a charge to cover the costs of the board and lodging, as well as specialist activities laid on.

Parents are asked to make additional voluntary contributions towards the cost of trips in terms of 'pocket money' for personal use.

Where possible the school applies for grants from charitable organizations to keep the cost of visits as low as possible and support families where the costs may otherwise prohibit a student from attending.

The school will meet any shortfall in the cost of a residential trip in terms of additional staffing for specific student needs.

The Headteacher seeks the permission of Governors of the residential trips being planned in the Headteacher's Report to Governors.

The member of staff responsible for organising the residential trip presents a report to the Finance, Pay & Personnel Governing Body Sub-committee to evidence the benefits to students.

The finances for the trips appear as separate cost codes in the monthly cost code report that is given to all finance governors and (the latest report) to all governors at a full governing body meeting.

Exclusions: It is important to note that

- a) no student should be excluded from a residential visit simply because his or her parents/carers are unable to pay;
- b) students may be excluded for Health and Safety reasons.

Examinations & Accreditation

No students are entered for public examinations but students do undertake accreditation of their attainment and experience using the ASDAN Scheme.

Where activities are part of the ASDAN accreditation voluntary contributions are asked for to assist with visits and meals out of school.

No charges are made for entering pupils for the accreditation.