

MERSEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL CHARGING POLICY



At Mersey Park we believe that education should be free and that no pupil's education should be affected by their parents being unwilling or unable to pay towards the costs of education.

The Governing Body of Mersey Park Primary School has adopted the following policy in connection with the matter of charging for school activities.

1. Pupils do not have to pay for any materials, books, instruments or other equipment which they use during school hours.
2. Parents will be asked to pay in cash or kind for materials that are being used in practical activities if they indicate a wish to own the finished product. Parents will be asked before the activity is undertaken whether they so wish
3. Parents may be asked for payment towards the cost of repairing or replacing any part of the fabric of the school property which has been damaged or lost as a result of their child's behaviour.
4. School trips and visits form an important part of the curriculum offered by our school. Parents are not required to pay for such visits, but may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards their cost. No pupil will be excluded from a school trip because of his or her parents' unwillingness or inability to contribute, but it is hoped that parents will feel able to support the school in its efforts to provide a full and interesting curriculum for all its pupils. If the contributions made are not sufficient to enable a planned trip to take place, the Headteacher may cancel the trip or make such changes to the organisation of the trip as she thinks necessary.
5. All trips and visits will be organised under the direction of the Headteacher and in accordance with the guidelines issued by Wirral Education Authority. Teachers organising such trips will be responsible to the Headteacher at all times.
6. Parents will be asked to meet the board and lodging costs of residential trips unless they are in receipt of income support or job seekers allowance during any period when the trip is taking place. There will be no charge for staff or the cost of materials at residential centres.
7. Parents may be charged for activities defined as 'optional extras', that is, activities which are not part of the school curriculum. If parents would like their children to take part in such activities but are unable to meet the full cost, financial assistance may be available; the Headteacher is happy to talk to parents in confidence about that possibility.
8. Charges are levied for musical instrument tuition as per the rates applied by the Wirral Peripatetic Music Service