Introduction

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that there is clarity over those items which the school will provide free of charge and for those items where there may be a charge.

Mission Statement

*The Christian family of St Paul’s...moving forward together. An exciting, caring and happy school where everyone succeeds.*

Inclusion

Pupils will have access to all activities regardless of their special needs, race, religion, culture, gender and gender orientation: whilst at the same time addressing the need for equal opportunity.

Definition

The school day is defined as: 8.50am-3.10pm. The midday break does not form part of the school day.

Responsibilities

The Headteacher will ensure that staff are familiar with and correctly apply the policy.

Policy statement

During the school day all activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum plus religious education will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It excludes charges made for teaching an individual pupil or groups of pupils to play a musical instrument. Unless the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), we will make a charge.

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs. In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. If insufficient funds are
available it may be necessary to curtail or cancel activities. Parents will be informed of this. From time to time we may invite a non-school based organisation such as the Life Education Van or Flash Bang Science Company to arrange an activity during the school day. Such organisations may wish to charge parents. Pupils will not be excluded if their parents/carers do not pay.

Optional activities outside of the school day

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, for example, Absolute Futbol, Mad Science Club, SportScool etc. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education nor are they part of an examination syllabus.

Residentials

Charges will be made for board and lodging, except for pupils whose parents are in receipt of eligible benefits. Other charges will be made to cover costs. In such cases parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

Calculating charges

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can't or won't. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising.

Parents who would qualify for support are those who are in receipt of eligible benefits. The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

Music Tuition

In cases of hardship the governors will consider in their absolute discretion the remission of fees (either in full or in part) for those pupils who they consider will benefit from such tuition.

Eligible benefits
Income Support;
Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance;
Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; or
Child Tax Credit (providing that they do not also receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, assessed by The Inland Revenue, that does not exceed their required amount).

This policy was written & approved in September 2015

To be reviewed September 2016