



Aspire London

Charging Policy

Rationale

Schools within Aspire London provide a wealth of opportunities for all pupils within the budget allocated by the Local Authority of Lewisham. The law states that education during normal school hours is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents and Aspire London warmly endorses that principle. It is recognised however, that many valuable educational activities are dependent on financial contributions from parents and carers. Without this additional financial support the Schools would find it impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of the curriculum provided for pupils. The Schools keep financial contributions to a minimum and ensure that all children are able to take part, irrespective of their circumstances. The Governing body of Aspire London has decided that its policy will be as follows:

School meals

There is no charge for children who are entitled to free school meals (FSM) or universal free school meals (UFSM). Pupils eating a school meal who are not entitled to FSM or UFSM will be charged a set amount. Information regarding the cost will be widely shared with parents and carers. The cost is payable to the School via ParentPay.

Day Visits

For class trips and visits occurring during the school day we ask for voluntary contributions to help towards the cost. Children in receipt of Free School Meals are not required to pay.

Residential Trips

Parents and carers will be charged for the full cost of their child's board and lodgings, they will be informed of the cost before the visit takes place. The charge will not exceed the actual cost. The parents and carers of a child in receipt of Free School Meals or Pupil Premium funding are only required to pay the deposit for residential trips.

Musical Instrument Tuition

Instrumental tuition is subject to an exception to the charging rule as it is not a requirement of the National Curriculum. Charges are made for teaching individual pupils or for groups of children. Costs are decided by Lewisham Music Service. Children in receipt of Free School Meals or the Pupil Premium will not be charged for lessons but are required to pay for instrument hire.

After School Clubs

Charges will be made for after school and lunch time clubs organised by the Schools on a termly basis. These charges are payable via ParentPay. Children in receipt of Free School Meals or Pupil Premium funding are entitled to one club per term paid for by the School from the Pupil Premium funding and not by the parent or carer.

Voluntary Contributions

Some extra curricular activities within Aspire London are funded through the voluntary school fund or funds raised by the Parent Staff Associations (PSA) of either School. All children will partake in a range of these activities irrelevant of contributions made.

Damage to School Property.

At the discretion of each School leader, a charge may be made for the replacement or repair of any item of School property that is lost or damaged.