



## **The Dales Partnership**

**Butterknowle, Frosterley and Woodland Primary Schools**

**Charging and Remissions Policy**

March 2023

## **Introduction**

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

## **Voluntary contributions**

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip.

All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit.

Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- school trips abroad;
- musical events.

## **Residential visits**

If the School organises a residential visit related to statutory education provision that is either totally or mainly in school time we will make a charge for the residential part of the visit. We will also ask for voluntary contributions to cover all the other costs of the visit (eg transport, entry fees and additional tuition costs). If we don't get sufficient take up or income to cover the visit costs we may have to cancel the visit.

Arrangements can be made for those families on low income or who receive state benefits to pay in instalments. If parents are unable to pay they should contact the Headteacher who will assess cases individually and liaise with the Chair of Governors to come to an acceptable arrangement.

## **Music tuition**

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. Parents in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

## **Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

## **School Clubs**

We ask for a contribution of £2.50 for after-school activities to cover the cost of materials.

## **Management of the Private School Funds (PSFs)**

*“Voluntary Funds often provide schools with a substantial additional source of income. Although such funds are not public money, the standards for the guardianship of these funds need to be as rigorous as those for the administration of the school’s delegated budget. Parents, pupils and other benefactors are entitled to receive the same standards of stewardship for the funds to which they have contributed.”* – (Keeping Your Balance, Audit Commission, October 2000)

Durham County Council Scheme for the Financing for Schools states, *“Any voluntary or private school funds held by schools, or trading organisations controlled by schools, must be subject to audit procedures and annual audit certification. Such audit certificates must be presented to governing bodies on an annual basis.”*

The DfE Schools Financial Value Standard requires *“Governing Bodies to confirm that they have adequate arrangements for the audit of voluntary funds.”* (Department of Education 2011)

The following guidelines provide a detailed analysis of the different roles and responsibilities of those involved in raising, managing, operating or being accountable for funds raised on behalf of our school. This includes the role of the Governing Body (who sets and monitors the policy and procedures for managing the fund), the Head Teacher (the overall manager), the Treasurer (the person who administers the fund on a day-to-day basis) and the Auditor (who examines the accounts and records).

## **Responsibilities of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body at The Dales Partnership retains overall responsibility for the management of all funds within the school. To carry out these responsibilities effectively and

to ensure that the school can satisfy financial administration requirements, the Governing Body is fully aware of all funds set up in the name of the school.

**7.3** The Dales Partnership schools each have a general School Fund. The ***Treasurers are Office Managers***, (Joy Brown, Butterknowle, Sofia Gurbillon, Frosterley and Katrina Scanlon, Woodland) whose role is to oversee all working of the Fund. The Treasurers have sufficient financial knowledge to be able to keep financial records of the fund and sufficient time available to devote to the task.

**The Governing Body receives annually the audited accounts through one of its termly Governing Body meetings.**

**Signed: Mrs C Carr (Head Teacher)**

**Date: March 2023**