

## **REDBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

### **CHARGING POLICY**

Pupils attending Redbridge High School access a range of activities both during and after school hours where there may be additional costs. These activities include; independent living skills activities, food technology, learning in the local and wider community, after school clubs and residential educational experiences.

The school policy will take account of all the requirements of the law in regards to charging for those additional activities.

The school operates the principal that any activity offered by the school will be accessible to all regardless of whether they make a financial contributions or not. All contributions towards activities that are taking place largely during school time or are connected to the curriculum will be voluntary from all parents and not just those in receipt of;

- Income Support
- Incomes Based Jobseekers allowance,
- Support under part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, (provided working tax credit is not also received and the families income does not exceed a specified amount.

Parents will be given the opportunity to pay the cost over a period of time agreed with the school in advance rather than as a whole sum if they wish.

Where a parent is unable to pay the full cost it is possible for a proportion of the cost to be paid in agreement with the school.

Parents will be informed at the onset that for some activities (particularly in the case of educational residential experiences) to go ahead it will require a contribution from all parents. However no pupil will miss the opportunity to take part in a residential experience purely for financial reasons.

Parents are asked for a voluntary contribution by class teachers to support independent living skills activities including food technology. The amount will vary with each class dependent on the range and amount of activities taking place. Parents will be asked for a weekly contribution. Where using public transport is an element of the activity parents will be encouraged and supported to apply for travel passes to which the pupils are entitled as a result of their disabilities otherwise the cost will be met by the school.

Where an activity out of school is taking place and a cost is involved a voluntary contribution will again be requested. The range and frequency of such activities will be monitored by the Base leaders to ensure parents are not over burdened

with requests for contributions in a short period of time. The school budget will also be used to provide classes with a budget to fund such activities as a clear link with planned work is required before permission for trips out are granted.

Currently the school is not charging for after school or lunch time clubs. This is recognition that for many of our pupils, access to after school clubs is difficult due to transport and support needs and to cover the real costs of such activities would make them prohibitively expensive for an individual pupil. The school reserves the right to ask for some contribution for these additional activities if necessary.

The school currently offers a residential educational experience in Yr 8 and then as part of the D of E programme. For pupils in Base 1 an annual residential educational experience is offered that pupils will access at a minimum once and possibly twice during their time in school if they wish to do so. Educational residential visits will be priced on the basis of the actual cost and all parents will be asked for a **voluntary** contribution matching this.

Pupils must provide their own uniforms and clothing for physical activities, i.e. PE and swimming.

There is no charge for any specialist materials used in lessons including writing materials for those pupils who can use them. The cost of ingredients for food technology lessons is covered by the school budget supplemented by voluntary contributions from parents agreed with the class teacher.

The needs of our pupils dictates that any residential educational experience particularly will require small groups with high staffing ratios often in purpose built accommodation thereby increasing the associated costs. We know that parents are supportive and recognise the high financial cost of giving our pupils the opportunity to have a trip away overnight and will therefore be supportive of our policy by making voluntary contributions towards the cost.

**March 2018**