

CHARGING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Under Section 110 of the Education Reform Act, local education authorities are required to determine and review a policy for charging and remitting charges for school activities.

- 1) The education in maintained schools during school hours should be free of charge. The exception in the government's circular is individual tuition for playing a musical instrument. We are no longer able to offer free tuition for musical instruments.
- 2) Schools may invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any activity organised by the school. Children will all receive the same treatment, whether or not a voluntary payment is made.
- 3) Charges may be made for out of school activities if not connected with exams, or to fulfil National Curriculum or R.E. requirements. These are optional extras and are on the basis of parental choice and willingness to pay.
- 4) Charges may be made for board and lodging on residential trips but possibly not for transport (see DES 2/89 paragraphs 29 - 35). The exception is for children whose parents are in receipt of Income Support or Job Seekers' Allowance.
- 5) Charges may be made for activities which take place wholly or mainly outside school hours, e.g. sports clubs, choir, etc. although the Education Committee suggests as a general principle charges should not normally be levied in respect of school based activities such as clubs and teams.
- 6) Charges may not be made for materials or ingredients but voluntary contributions can be made. If parents express a wish to keep finished items, then a charge can be made.