

Peterston super Ely C/W Primary

POLICY STATEMENT ON CHARGING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Policy

Sections 106-110 of the 1988 Education Reform Act set out rules concerning the levying of charges in LEA maintained and controlled schools and this came into effect on 1st April 1989. Section 280 of the 1993 Education Act came into force on 5th October 1993 and makes minor changes in the matter of charging for school activities. This has implications for certain activities normally undertaken in respect of the enrichment rather than the basic provision of the National Curriculum at this school and this policy explains these implications.

The objectives of the charging provisions set out in the 1988 Act were as follows:

To maintain the right to free school education;

To establish that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents ability or willingness to pay;

To emphasise that there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to give the LEA and schools permission to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, or in support of any activity organised by the school, whether during or outside school hours.

The Act states that neither the pupil nor his or her parents may be required to pay for, or to supply, any materials, books, instruments or other equipment for use in connection with education provided during school hours. It also states that any transport provided in school hours by the LEA or the school to carry pupils between parts of the school's premises or between the school and any other place where education is to be provided by the LEA or the school, must be provided free of charge.

The Act does, however, allow schools to seek voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any school activity whether during or outside school hours, residential or non-residential. Provided that parents are informed that

There is no obligation to contribute

Registered pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request for voluntary contributions.

However, in the event of the provision of an educational activity being dependent on the meeting of associated charges, schools are entitled to withdraw or cancel the activity if parents were reluctant to support it.

It has not been the practise of Peterston School to levy charges for books, materials and equipment etc and the school is not affected by the legislation in this respect. However, there are two areas of activity in which it is affected by these requirements: the provision of educational visits and provision of musical tuition. The school regards both these activities as highly beneficial means of enriching the curriculum and there is no intention to discontinue or restrict this provision.

APPENDIX 1

Educational Visits

The school, when arranging or proposing to arrange educational visits is not allowed to exclude any child whose parents do not contribute the voluntary charge requested to cover the cost of travel or admission. The school has no ability to meet the cost of educational visits from it's own financial resources and relies heavily on the continuing support of parents. Parents are asked to appreciate that the provision of educational visits is dependent upon the voluntary financial support they contribute.

Voluntary contributions requested for educational visits will be made known to parents as and when these visits are proposed.

APPENDIX II

Musical tuition

The school is obliged to provide musical tuition under the National Curriculum but this does not include tuition on musical instruments. Hitherto, such tuition was provided by South Glamorgan Schools' Music Service. As a result of the decision of South Glamorgan County Council to withdraw the funding for this service the school is no longer able to provide free tuition on musical instruments.

The Governors have decided that tuition on musical instruments maybe provided at the school, but that the cost must be met by the parents of those children receiving it. At present, tuition is provided on a variety of instruments by the Cardiff and Vale Music Service and the cost of this is to be met entirely by the parents. At present, tuition on recorders is provided voluntarily by some parents, but the provisions regarding musical instruments (see Appendix III) still apply.

In order to comply with Section 280 of the Education Act of 1993, children will be taught in groups of not more than four for musical tuition given in school time. Charges will be made

by the teacher on that basis. To develop the experience of the children, there may be occasions when some of those groups will be brought together. The levying of these charges and the settlement of accounts will be a matter between the tutor and the parents. Charges will also be made for the cost of entering a pupil for a graded musical examination.

APPENDIX III

Hiring of Musical Instruments

The school has insufficient musical instruments to lend to pupils. Instruments may however be hired or bought through the Cardiff and Vale Music Service. Where hiring or purchase takes place through the Cardiff and Vale Music Service, the levying of the charge and its collection will be entirely a matter between the parents and the Service.