



LEARNING AND GROWING; SAFE IN GOD'S LOVE

## Birchington CE Primary School

### CHARGING POLICY 2025 - 2026

#### **Introduction**

All education during school hours is free. We may make a small charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum including swimming, individual and group music tuition, school trips and experiences.

#### **Voluntary Contributions**

When organising school activities, trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents and carers to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. However, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may have to cancel a trip or activity. If a trip or activity goes ahead, it may include children whose parents and carers have not paid any contribution.

If a parent/carer wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. We may ask for a contribution they can afford. Sometimes the school, contributions from local parishioners to the welfare fund or the PTA pays additional costs in order to support the visit or activity. Parents and carers have a right to know how each trip and activity is funded. The school provides this information on request.

All decisions made regarding the planning and organisation as well as the subsidising of school trips, visitors and activities stems from our school Christian Vision and our school values.

*We strive to ensure everyone in our happy, inclusive school flourishes and feels valued and safe. Our peaceful learning environment and aspirational curriculum enables everyone to grow from their unique starting point, giving them a hopeful future.*

*Following Jesus' example, we forgive, respect, love and care for everyone.*

We want all children, no matter their unique starting point, to be able to have the same wonderful experiences and opportunities.

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

- Visits to museums, the theatre, parks and other public places
- Sporting activities
- Outdoor adventure activities
- School trips abroad
- Residential visits
- Musical events
- Visits by artists, dancers, musicians etc.

### **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 when peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We give parents and carers information about additional music tuition every academic year.

### **Swimming**

The school organises swimming lessons for all children during their time in the Upper School Phase. These take place during school time and it is part of the National Curriculum. Due to the cost of transport and pool hire we ask parents and carers to make a contribution towards this activity. We inform parents and carers when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents and carers for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

### **Clubs**

Those clubs run by our school staff are free although a charge may be occasionally made to assist with the purchasing of equipment and materials or to pay for Sports Coaches. Parents/carers are informed of all club costs at the start of Terms 1, 3 and 5,

### **Books/Resources**

We request payment in the case of lost or damaged property. Currently we charge £7.00 to cover the cost of a lost or damaged text-book and £7.00 or a donation of a new book for any lost library books.

*Headteacher and SBM - September 2025  
To be reviewed - September 2027*