**THINGWALL PRIMARY SCHOOL - CHARGING POLICY**

In accordance with the Wirral Education Authority's policy updated May 2007, the Governing Body of Thingwall Primary School endorses the principles that education provided in maintained schools should be free and that no pupil's education should be affected by a parent's unwillingness or inability to pay or to contribute towards the cost of the pupil's education.

Pupils are not required to pay for any materials, books, instruments or other equipment for use in connection with education provided during school hours. However, the school may charge for or require the supply of, ingredients or materials, for practical subjects when parents have said they wish to own the finished product.

In respect of activities defined as "optional extras" under the terms of the Education Act (1996), charges will be made by the governors to cover the cost of board and lodging, travel, materials, books or other equipment, entrance fees, teaching and non-teaching staff and any other cost attributable to the provision of the activity.

The amount of charge permitted by the Education Act (1996) and the decision whether to refund any such charge for optional extras or for board and lodging is determined by the Governing Body.

**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 the trip or the visitor. If a trip goes ahead, it

may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. No child will be barred from the visit if a voluntary contribution is not received during the hours of a typical school day. The shortfall will be made up from School Fund.

**Music:** All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not

charge for this. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small

group lessons and there is a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition in the summer term for the following academic year. Instrumental music tuition is provided by peripatetic music teachers and is charged by the school on behalf of the individual music teacher and a reminder of the charges is provided termly. If a parent has failed to pay for the previous term their child’s music lessons will cease until the debt is cleared in full. One the debt is cleared in full, music lessons will recommence.

**Residential Visits:** For residential visits, a charge is made to parents by the Governing Body for the cost of board and lodging for each pupil. A voluntary contribution is asked for to cover the remaining cost e.g. instruction. Please note that we will cover the costs of such visits during the school day but we will not cover costs for before 8.55am or after 3.30pm. If All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel the residential visit.

**Broken equipment:** Occasionally items may be lost or broken by certain children. Whilst incidents of this nature are extremely rare, when this happens as a deliberate act or an act of carelessness, we reserve the right to ask for a donation to cover the cost of repairs or replacement items.

Current costs of typical items are:

£5.00 donation for a lost or ruined reading book

£10.00 donation for damage to larger items such as furniture

£20.00 donation for ruination of the fabric and fixtures of the building and its grounds and also computer hardware.

(These costs are reviewed annually and are benchmarked against similar schools).

All money goes straight into the school budget and a written receipt is provided for proof of payment. Whilst this is a voluntary arrangement we understand that school and parents will work together to ensure our school environment is kept in good condition.

**Swimming:** The school organises swimming lessons for some children in Key Stage 2.

These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We

make no charge for this activity as swimming is part of your child’s legal PE entitlement. 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. If parents wish to withdraw their child from swimming lessons we would ask for this in writing with full medical reasons given.

**Clubs:** All music extra-curricular activities are provided free of charge by staff members and some sports clubs are partly or fully subsidised by the school using the PE funding. All other clubs run by school staff are usually priced at £2.50 per session. There will, however, be some additional activities run by external providers for which there is a greater charge for the duration of the course e.g. Yoga/Mindfulness, Judo, Drama, Football. Invariably these costs may be greater than £2.50 a session and costs are decided by the external provider. The school may charge for, or require the supply of, ingredients or materials, for example for an art or cooking club. Where children’s behaviour in a club may be poor we reserve the right to ask your child to leave the club until their behaviour improves. Where this happens, we will provide a refund for the course.

This policy was reviewed in September 2019 and will be reviewed annually.

Approval at Full Governing Body dated………………………..

Signed (Chair of Governors)……………………………………..