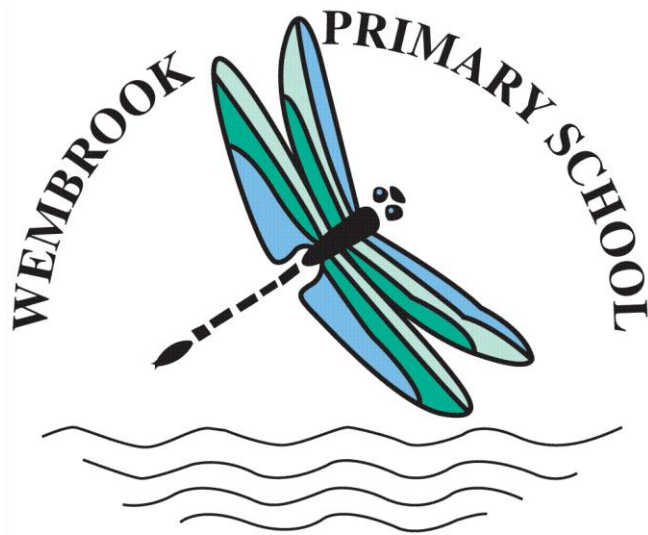# Charging Policy

Signed:
Headteacher _____ _____
Chair of Governors _____ _____

Charging Policy

1 Introduction

Any charges made by the school must meet the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and the Education Regulations 1999. The Governors endorse these guiding principles, in particular that the child should not have his or her access to the curriculum limited by charges. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum. We aim to establish and maintain a fair and coherent system of charges within the constraints of the school budget, to enable a broad range of trips and activities to be accessible to as many pupils as possible.

2 Voluntary contributions

2.1 When organising school trips or visits, which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school usually 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 a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. The school is entitled to cancel the trip if the level of contributions does not meet the budgetary requirements.

At present the school uses Pupil Premium money to support those pupils who may be in need of financial support. The school endeavours to make a significant financial contribution to all organised activities. On many occasions the school is able to cover all costs for Pupil Premium children.

In cases where monies are levied, parents must be advised in advance and money collected prior to the activity. Requests for help from parents on income support or working family tax credit will be considered and assistance provided within the limits of the school's budget. Complete confidentiality will be observed in such matters. Any insurance will be included in charges for trips or activities.

Sometimes in subjects such as Design and Technology the children may wish to take home items that use more expensive materials and if so a small charge will be made to cover costs, especially of materials that could be recycled.

3 Residential visits

3.1 Trips that take place mainly outside school hours or in holiday times are chargeable. Board, lodging and travel costs will be charged on residential trips, subject to statutory exceptions. Pupils who are attached to Pupil Premium funding will have the costs significantly reduced. The amount will vary from activity to activity but the school tries to support these families by around 50% of the calculated costs.

4   Music tuition

4.1   All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

4.2   There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. Pupils who receive funding through Pupil Premium do not have to make a contribution. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5   Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all 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. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their acknowledgement that this activity will take place off the school site.

6   Sports Coaching

The school, on occasion, can offer additional coaching after school with visiting coaches. The club or visiting coach may make a small charge for these sessions.

7   Breakages

The school is permitted to ask parents to pay for the cost of replacing a broken window or defaced, damaged or lost resources where this is the result of a pupil's behaviour.