



Our policy is that:

- As a maintained school all education provided at Aldington Primary School, wholly or mainly in school hours, is available free of charge to children attending.
- Charges may be levied from those exercising parental responsibility for activities taking place wholly or mainly outside of school hours, (unless specified for a prescribed public examination or for the National Curriculum.)
- Voluntary contributions are requested from time to time from those exercising parental responsibility to enable curriculum related activities to take place.

In practice this means that:

- when an event or activity takes place during school time, we may ask families of children benefiting to share part of the cost; and,
- when we are requesting voluntary contributions, if we do not receive enough to cover the costs, plans may be cancelled; and,
- no child is barred from attending because their parents have not contributed and
- families eligible for benefits, as set out by the DfE, and such others the headteacher determines are experiencing financial hardship, will not be expected or pressured to make such voluntary contributions and, in dealing with issues such as these the staff of the School will act with discretion to ensure that the names of such families, and their children, remain confidential. This policy applies to payments for such things as books, music lessons, children's school equipment (pens, etc.) and school events such as discos.
- In Years 4, 5 and 6 children may go on trips organized by the School where they may be expected to stay away overnight. Government regulations allow the School to charge parents for the cost of board and lodging. Those parents who can prove they are in receipt of either:
 - Income Support
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
 - Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

will not be expected to pay the cost of board and lodging. We do not want any child to miss these valuable experiences. The school voluntary fund may be able to subsidize the cost or alternative funding will try to be sourced when possible, so that the entire class can benefit.

All payments, including ad-hoc dinner money now that the school operates a cashless system, should go into an envelope marked with the Child's name and Class and enclosed should be an explanation as to what the money is for. The child should take the envelope to their Class teacher first thing in the morning. In the event of a query about a charge, the School Office staff are available between 8:30 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. to advise.

Money raised by the PTFA is only spent on paying for, or subsidising, activities and resources that benefit the whole school.