



Belsay
School

Charging Policy

September 2025



Belsay Primary School is part of Pele Trust.



1 Introduction

1.1 All the education we provide during normal school hours is at no charge to pupils. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum. However, we may charge for some additional extra activities such as individual or small group music tuition.

2 Aims and Objectives

The aims of this policy will:

- set out what the school will not charge for, what it will make a charge for or request a voluntary contribution from parents/carers;
- clarify how charges will be determined, so parents and carers understand why requests for payment are sometimes made for some activities.

3 Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents and carers to contribute to the cost. 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 or carers 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. Parents and carers have a right to know how each trip is funded, and the school provides this information on request.

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;
- fieldtrips and research visits;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- school trips abroad;
- musical events
- provision of materials for practical lessons (e.g. Food and/or Design Technology).

4 Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses.

However, we do suggest a voluntary contribution to cover the costs of board and lodging, although parents and carers who receive state benefits are exempt from this charge. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through these voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled, and that aspect of the curriculum would have to be covered in other ways.



5 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 small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. Parents pay the school music service direct for these lessons, but parents and carers in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents and carers information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

6 Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children in accordance with the National Curriculum. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for this activity, but we do ask for a voluntary contribution from parents and carers to cover the cost of transport. We inform parents and carers when these lessons are to take place, and we seek the written permission of parents or carers for their children to take part.

7 Additional sports coaching

The school is sometimes able to secure the services of a qualified sports coach. It is necessary for the school to make a charge for this service and so children attending these sessions may be asked to contribute financially toward the cost of the coaching session. The school does routinely offer additional sports and club coaching after school.

8 “Optional Extra” activities outside school hours

The full cost for activities including residential visits, which take place out of school hours may be charged to parents provided that they are not a necessary part of the National Curriculum, an examination syllabus, or religious education, where no charge will be made. In setting the charge the school takes into account the costs for travel, lodging for supervisory staff, and associated supply cover. Full or partial remission from the charge for board and lodging may be available to pupils whose families are in receipt of Free School Meals.

9 Pupil Premium

The school may use such funds to subsidise or pay for activities which will enrich and extend the opportunities of those children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

10 Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by the Academy Committee and will be reviewed every three years or sooner if necessary.

Date: September 2024

Reviewed: June 2025

Next Review: September 2026



**Belsay
School**

Our Schools

Belsay Primary School

Darras Hall Primary School

Heddon St. Andrew's CE Primary School

Ponteland High School

Ponteland Primary School

Richard Coates CE Primary School

