



EDUCATION REFORM ACT 1988

CHARGING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The basic principle underlying the charging provisions of the Act is that education provided by any maintained school for its registered pupils should be free of charge if it takes place during school hours.



The Governors wholeheartedly agree with this basic principle. However, they also feel that whilst educational visits and visiting speakers provide a valuable stimulus to children's learning such extras cannot be provided free of charge.

Section 188 of the Act establishes that schools may seek voluntary contributions from parents towards the cost of educational visits, and other extra activities during the school hours. Whilst contributions must be genuinely voluntary and registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to a request, we must point out that we cannot fund educational visits, theatre groups and speakers from school funds. We rely on parents to contribute the money to pay for these activities. Any such activity, which is not financially self-supporting, will be cancelled.

The Governing Body very much hope that parents will take the same view as they that educational visits and speakers etc. are a valuable asset to our children's education and we therefore hope that they will continue to be supported by parents as they have been in the past.