



Thornhill Primary School

Charging Policy

Signed D Thompson (Chair of Governors)

Signed. S Overfield (Headteacher)

Reviewed Sep 2026

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Introduction

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

From time to time, activities such as educational visits, visitors and clubs take place which incur charges. Wherever possible, school will try to subsidise the cost of these activities to reduce prices.

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act schools are prohibited from charging for activities during school hours which are an essential part of the curriculum. However, we may ask for voluntary contributions to help with the cost of certain activities e.g educational visits during school hours. Parents may be charged for events their children take part in outside the school day e.g disco, weekend residential visits.

Voluntary contributions

At Thornhill Primary School we organise school trips, visitors or visits throughout the school year, to enrich the curriculum we offer and to enhance the educational experience of our learners. The school invites parents to contribute towards the cost of some of these events. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, however, we may need to cancel trips, visits or visitors. Where a trip goes ahead or visitors to the school deliver activities to enhance our curriculum, learners whose parents have not paid any contribution will share the experience, we do not treat these learners differently from any others.

The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive:

- Educational visits – transport and entrance costs may be incurred
- Sporting activities offered by external providers
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Visits to or by a theatre company
- After-school activities offered by external providers

We have a range of activities that are offered free of charge.

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time we ask parents to cover the cost of board, lodging and travel. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled.

School will do whatever it can to assist parents with the cost of a residential visit:

- If parents cannot afford the full cost of the visit this may be subsidised e.g if the child is in receipt of free school meals.
- If we are able to raise funds or acquire additional funding to subsidise the costs of these visits then savings will be passed on to parents/carers.

Residential visit may include:

- Year 6 Outdoor Activities
- Year 5 Camping

Music Tuition

- All learners study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.
- Individual or small group lessons are taught by LA peripatetic music teachers in year 5 and 6 and the school use Pupil Premium to pay for these lessons, rather than charging parents/carers.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for pupils 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 lesson are to take place.

Transport

For many activities transport is required. At Thornhill we do not charge for all transport costs other than school visits. A portion of our Sport Premium is used to fund the cost of transport to sporting events.

Wrap Around Care

The school offers Wrap around care from 8am – 6pm. Sessions must be paid for in advance and can be booked on Arbor.

Prices are as follows;

Breakfast Club	8am – 8.45am (includes snack) Free to all children Reception to Year6 £1.50 for Nursery children
After School Club	3.15pm – 4.30pm (includes snack) £2.50
After School Care	3.15pm – 5.30pm (includes snack) £4.50

School Meals

All children from Year Reception to Year 2 receive Universal free school meals.

School meals from Year 3 –Year 6 cost £3.08.

Free school meals are available for children whose parents receive certain benefits:

(see link – apply for free school meals Durham County Council)

All children in Nursery pay for school meals which cost £3.70.

Staff school meals cost £3.70

Milk

All children receive daily free milk until 5 years old. Once a child turns 5, milk is paid for via www.coolmilk.com. Children on free school meals receive free milk.

Snack

All pupils from Nursery – Year2 receive a free piece of fruit/veg daily.

Payments

Payments can be made via Arbor. Please note that the school have the right to refuse school lunches or access to Wrap Around Care if a parent/carer is in arrears. Wrap Around Care must be paid for in advance.

Monitoring

This policy is monitored and will be reviewed every year.