CHARGING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The 1988 Education Act made it illegal to levy charges (including transport charges) for any activities organised during school time or which are directly related to an examination course. In most cases, charges for instrumental music lessons, and board and lodging on visits away from home, are regarded as exceptions. However, it is still possible to levy charges for most "out-of-school-hours" activities.

In most cases, "extra" activities have to be self-financing on the basis of voluntary contributions from parents. If a minority of parents chose to demand all their legal rights, the school would have to respond by strictly tailoring the curriculum and extra-curriculum activities to the modest budget which can be afforded.

Parents in receipt of any of the following: Income Support, Income-Based Job Seekers' Allowance, Income-related employment and support allowance, support under part 6 v1 of the Immigration and Asylum act 1999, the Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit, or Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by Revenue & Customs, that does not exceed £16,190. If parents receive Working Tax Credit, they do not qualify even if they receive child tax credit and their income is below £16,190) have the right to free board and lodging for any child on a residential course in school hours, but if claims were to be made which the school could not afford, the proposed events would be cancelled.

Traditionally, The Ashcombe has offered a wide range of extra activities which have relied upon the financial support of our parents. Without this continuing co-operation from all our parents we could find that it is no longer possible to offer many of these extra activities which we know are very much appreciated by our pupils.

We will always do what we can to help in the event of special needs or circumstances if parents bring these to our attention, especially if the activity has particular curriculum relevance to a pupil.