



Voluntary Contributions

Learning outside the usual school day is widely recognised effective. It can extend student knowledge, enrich student understanding and promote personal and social development. We prize such opportunities highly, and have an extensive extra-curricular programme, with educational visits a real highlight.

'Charging for School Activities' (Department for Education May 2018) states schools cannot charge parents for any element of the National Curriculum, including materials for learning or educational activities. However, parents can be asked for 'voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities'. In essence, this means that costly activities which could not otherwise be held can be subsidised by reasonable contributions by parents.

Bishop Stopford School ensures that these opportunities are accessible and affordable to all. However, the costs would be prohibitive if the Academy were not to ask for contributions. Voluntary contributions are requested to make up the shortfall. This contribution is genuinely voluntary and a student will not be excluded from an activity as a matter of course if the voluntary contribution is not made. However, without sufficient voluntary contributions, trips and activities will be cancelled.

The Academy makes allowance for those who cannot afford to contribute. It uses Pupil Premium funding where appropriate. Parents are invited to discuss matters when they cannot contribute with members of the Finance team. These discussions are confidential.

There are some activities which the Academy puts on which are not part of the National Curriculum. For these, payment is necessary and not voluntary. Enrichment such as skiing, sports tours, additional musical instrument tuition, clubs which run after school which are not part of the curriculum all carry a charge