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Alex McCrorie
DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RESOURCES AND
PEOPLE SERVICES

18 June 2018

To: All Parents/Carers of pupils in East Lothian Primary and Secondary Schools

John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3HA
Tel 01620 827633

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Introduction of Charging for Instrumental Music Instruction

Following the budget decision to introduce charges for Instrumental Music Instruction taken at the special meeting of the Full Council on 13 February 2018 and the level of charges agreed at Cabinet on 12th June 2018, Officers in our Education Service have produced a new charging policy and charging structure for the service. The new charging policy will ensure Instrumental Music continues in our schools, in addition to the music curriculum taught in the classroom which remains free.

The new charging policy will be introduced at the start of the school session in August 2018. The full charge will be £280 per annum, payable in 10 monthly instalments of £28, and with a discount rate for siblings of £240 per annum.

Under the new scheme concessions will apply:

- Free tuition for families that are eligible for Free School Meals and/or Clothing Grant
- Bursary scheme for families who are on low income and not eligible for Free School Meals/or Clothing Grant
- Free tuition for students using their tutored instrument in Instrumental Music Instruction towards an SQA qualification in secondary years S4-S6
- Free tuition for pupils who are Looked After Children within the East Lothian Council's Social Care system
- A discount will apply if there is more than one child in the family taking tuition

You do not need to do anything in response to this letter. Further information on payment methods, concessions and the bursary scheme will be provided within the Information for Parents/Carers document, which will be available on the Council website from 31 July 2018. You will then be able to apply for the bursary scheme if you are on a low income.

East Lothian Council is committed to continue delivering a high quality service, where all instrumental lessons in East Lothian schools are taught by qualified instructors. All children in our schools will continue to enjoy a broad and varied music curriculum with opportunities to participate in local and regional bands, ensembles and orchestras.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Robertson
Head of Education