

WATER CHARGES

It is increasingly common that schools will have to pay water charges based on how much water they use. Each local authority charges different rates for water. There is usually a standing charge for being connected to the supply, and/or a rental charge for the meter, a charge per cubic meter for 'water in' and a charge per cubic meter for 'waste water out'. If the school has its own septic tank, only the charge for 'water in' will apply.

For schools that are connected to the public sewerage system, local authorities operate on the assumption that water coming into the school is the same volume as water going out into the waste water system.

Charges for 'water in' vary from about .90c per cubic metre to 1.20 per cubic metre. Charges for waste water leaving the school vary from about 1.06 per cubic metre to 2.08 per cubic metre. These are based on local authority charges for 2009. Your local authority can advise you on current water charges.

The Department of Education and Science advises that a per capita usage of 3.5 cubic metres per year is reasonable, while 2.1 cubic metres per capita per year is best practice. Based on 183 school days per year, 19.1 litres per student per day is considered reasonable, and 11.5 litres per student per day is considered best practice.