

Charging and Remissions Policy



Date agreed: 25th November 2021

Date for review: November 2022

Our vision, Enjoy, Explore, Excel; be amazing is rooted in Psalm 139, which recognises that God made us all in an amazing and wonderful way. We are unique and will fulfil our own potential.

As a school, our 12 Christian Values: responsibility, respect, perseverance, courage, hope, compassion, trust, forgiveness, truthfulness, thankfulness, friendship and peace are interwoven through our curriculum, our interactions and how support the children in making choices in their behaviour. There may be times when the use of force is appropriate and through adherence this policy, we aim to act in a way that is aligned with our values

Charging and Remissions Policy

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for school activities, external lettings and extended school provision, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents. Guidance is based on the Education Act 1996: Sections 449-462.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of the School are responsible for determining the content of the policy and the Executive Head & Headteacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered by the Head teacher.

Definitions;

Community Facilities – activities which the governors do not feel is of direct educational benefit to children at the school.

Extended school provision – provision of childcare outside the standard school day where it is optional as to whether the child attends.

External Lettings – letting to an organisation other than the school.

Remission – where a charge is not payable, either in full or in part.

Prohibition of Charges

The Governing Body of St. Mary's recognises that the legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment);
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;

- Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as an essential part of the National Curriculum.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school;
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;

Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of the schools basic curriculum for religious education;

- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport provided in connection with an educational trip

Charges

(a) Board and lodging on residential visits (not to exceed the costs)

(b) The proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside school hours ('optional extras') to meet the costs for:

- (i) Travel
- (ii) Materials and equipment
- (iii) Non-teaching staff costs
- (iv) Entrance fees
- (v) Insurance costs

(c) Individual or group tuition in the playing of a musical instrument

(d) Costs of non-prescribed examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school

(f) Any other education, transport or examination fee unless charges are specifically prohibited

(g) Breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils

(h) Extra-curricular activities and school clubs

(i) Letting of the school premises or grounds

(j) Extended school care activities such as breakfast club, after school club, holiday clubs and “wrap around” nursery provision

(k) Charges for materials or ingredients where the pupils wish to keep the finished product

Consideration also needs to be given to:

- The proportion of the costs recovered where a charge is to be made;
- Whether any remission is to extend beyond the statutory minimum;
- Whether or not special consideration is to be given to hardship cases not contained within the exemptions and how this is to be determined;
- Arrangements for education where the parents fail to pay the charge being levied by the school;
- the level of support from the school budget where the level of voluntary contributions is insufficient to fund the visit or journey;
- Any charge for a pupil activity should not exceed the actual cost. If further funds need to be raised to help in hardship cases, this must be voluntary
- For lettings, the charge should at least cover the cost, including:
 - Services (heat & light)
 - Staffing (security, caretaking & cleaning)
 - Administration
 - Wear & tear (sinking fund)

Remissions

Children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of charges for board and lodging costs during residential school trips. The relevant support payments are:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods, and your monthly average income over three assessment periods should be no more than £616.67)
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Voluntary Contribution

Parents will be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following:

- a) Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours.
- b) Education visits by outside providers to the school that takes place during the school hours e.g. spacedome/theatre groups etc...

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request for a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge. In addition the following will be made clear to parents:

- a) That the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay;
- and
- b) That registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.

The costs of any optional extra undertaken by any pupil whose parents/guardians are unable to pay may not be included in the charge to other pupils but must be funded through the delegated budget, school fund or other fundraising.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the head teacher.

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