

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Inspiring Children to love
learning and live in the
light of Christ

Charging and Remission Policy

Approved: December 2023

1 Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition. We do however, rely on the good will and financial support of parents who are able to make voluntary donations towards the cost of transport and lessons for activities such as swimming, educational visits and residential visits. We would never want a child to miss any activity because they were unable to make a contribution. The Head teacher urges parents to approach her in complete confidence if assistance is sought.

2 Voluntary contributions

2.1 When organising school trips or visits, which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary and we aim to give a month's notice of when contributions are required. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

2.2 If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school will provide this information on request.

2.3 The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre; or visiting performers
- musical events.

3 Residential visits

3.1 From time to time the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly in school time to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, sporting or social and team building activities. Parents are invited to contribute towards the cost of this activity on a similar basis to other activities. Parents who receive state benefits receive a remission or reduction in payment, on the discretion of the Head teacher.

4 Music tuition

4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum and this includes children learning to play an instrument as a class. We do not charge for this. Parents may be asked to buy a recorder for their child.

4.2 There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

4.3 Parents are expected to pay for all peripatetic music lessons. Debts will be chased by the office staff until they are paid.

4.4 If parents refuse to pay or debts increase then music lessons will not continue for their child until debts are paid.

4.5 Parents must give a terms notice if they do not wish their child to continue with peripatetic music lessons. The full termly payment must be made.

5 Swimming

5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for Key Stage Two children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

6 Football/Netball

6.1 The school offers additional football/netball and other sports coaching after school. A teacher, who is a member of the school staff, or an experienced coach (with DBS approval), who may not be a member of staff, may run and organise these sessions. We make no charge for these sessions. On occasions activities advertised within school, but provided by external agencies, may make a charge for their services e.g after school clubs. In addition, some after school activities provided by school staff may be charged to cover the cost of resources.

7. Additional Charges

7.1 Where there has been wilful damage made to school property or equipment, school may charge parents for the cost of replacing or repairing items.

7.2 Voluntary contributions may also be asked for certain materials; in Food Technology and Design & Technology, for example, where pupils are taking the product home.

8. Before and After School Club

8.1 The school provides a Before and After School care facility which has its own charging policy.