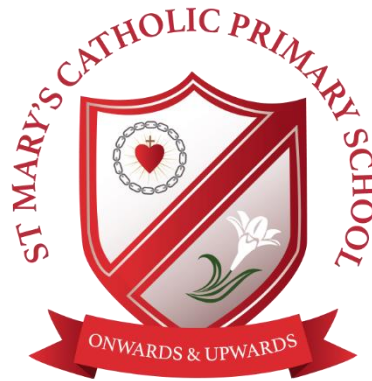


St Mary's Catholic Primary School

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS



Date adopted:

Spring 2024

Review date:

Spring 2025

AIMS

The Governing Board of St Mary's Catholic Primary School recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, trips and residential experiences, can make towards a child's education. The Governing Board aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the children at the school and as additional activities. All children should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents' or carers' financial means.

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements. It's also based on guidance from the DfE on [statutory policies for schools and academy trusts](#). This policy complies with our Funding Agreement and Articles of Association.

DEFINITIONS

- Charge: a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission: the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Board

The Governing Board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher. The Governing Board also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- notifying the Headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

WHERE CHARGES CANNOT BE MADE

Below we set out what we cannot charge for.

Education

- Admission applications.

- 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
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education.
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school.

Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

Residential visits

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours. Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The National Curriculum,
 - a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education,
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

WHERE CHARGES CAN BE MADE

Below we set out what we can charge for.

Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them.
- Optional extras.
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstance.

Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as optional extras. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - the National Curriculum,
 - a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school.
 - The school's basic curriculum for religious education (this does not include catechism classes preparation for First Holy Communion or First Confessions).
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school.
- Transport (other than transport that cannot be charged for, see above).
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit.
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra.
- The cost of buildings and accommodation.
- Non-teaching staff.
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra).
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

Music tuition

Although the law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, music lessons are an exception to this rule. Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- for a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

Residential visits

We may charge for the full cost of board, activities and lodging on a residential visit.

References

We can charge a fee for completing references for children applying to independent schools.

Refunds

Where a deposit (or the full amount) has been paid and the trip, provision or tuition cannot go ahead, the school will pursue refunds from third parties and once secured will pass these on to parents.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

As an exception to the requirements set, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

ACTIVITIES WE CHARGE FOR

The school will charge for activities such as after-hour clubs.

REMISSIONS

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged children, the governing board has agreed that some activities and visits where charges can legally be made may be offered at no charge or a reduced charge to parents in particular circumstances. This remissions policy sets out the circumstances in which charges will be waived.

Criteria for qualification for remission are given below:

- Parents or carers who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits can ask for exemption from paying the cost of optional extras, music tuition (as described above) and residential visits:
 - 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 that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's annual gross income does not exceed £16,190)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
 - Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family's income must be less than £7,400 per year - after tax and not including any benefits)

MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The School Business Manager monitors charges and remissions and ensures these comply with this policy.