

Charging and Remissions Policy

In support of our Mission Statement, St. Mary's recognises the value of providing a wide range of experiences to enrich and extend children's learning, whilst contributing to their spiritual, moral and personal development. We aim therefore to promote and provide such experiences for all pupils at the school, as part of the outstanding broad and balanced curriculum that we offer. Legislation maintains children have the right to free school education and we, as a school, agree in principle to this.

Many inspirational activities however do have an associated cost, as outside agencies used may charge for their service. Sometimes school cannot engage in these activities unless voluntary contributions are received or parents are charged for the cost. The headteacher can be approached in confidence by any parent having any financial difficulty and a discretionary contribution or charge may be agreed upon. Should the school not receive enough contributions to fund an experience it would be cancelled.

Newsletters at the start of the school year provide a suggested amount of money that may need to be contributed within that year per pupil and the school will endeavour to give as much notice as possible for events taking place.

Educational Visits

Visits that take place within the school day or on a residential basis are for the intention of enhancing the learning experience of the children. The trip organiser and the EVC will consider cost, location and suitability of the activities to ensure the best learning experiences and best value. The price of the trip will include any additional costs which are incurred by the school in order for the experience to take place. For example, transport, accommodation, additional experienced staff, etc. Unfortunately, the school does not have sufficient in budget to fund all such experiences and so will ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the ventures. No child will be excluded from a visit should a voluntary contribution not be received, but if sufficient funds are not received the visit may have to be cancelled. Enhanced learning opportunities can be provided in school for children of parents who would prefer not to contribute to educational visits.

Swimming

School requests a voluntary contribution of £2.00 towards the transport incurred with the swimming lessons.

Music

The children in Years 3, 4 and 5 have their curriculum music lessons provided by external music specialists, and the cost of this is met from the school budget. An instrument is loaned to a child free of charge for their own use. However, reeds for a variety of instruments will be charged for. If the parent of a child, from any year group, requests that a Peripatetic teacher comes into school to give individual or group tuition, charges will be made.

Extra-curricular activities

St. Mary's offers many voluntary extra-curricular opportunities in sports, music, drama, etc. Some of these are led by qualified teachers and trainers who are not members of the school staff. There is often a charge for after-school clubs.

Breakfast Club

St. Mary's provides a Breakfast Club for all children who wish to attend. The current cost of this venture is £3.50 per day. School dinners are offered free in KS1 and at a charge currently of £2.35 per day in KS2.

After School Club

St. Mary's provides an After School Club for all children who wish to attend. The current cost of this venture is £9.50 per day. Light snacks are provided as part of this charge.

Remission of Charges

The headteacher may propose that any charge which would be paid or contributed to school in accordance with normal policy may be waived, if it is considered suitable and possible to do so. This could include such activities as those linked to arts, PE, music and projects held in and out of school.

To support parents in spreading the cost of their contributions over a longer period of time, a savings scheme is in operation.

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