



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

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 some individual or small-group music tuition. The school will ensure that on no occasion where charges are sought any pupil is disadvantaged solely by their inability to pay.

2. Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. 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.

The 1988 Education Act draws a distinction between the term 'charges' which are considered to be an obligatory cost and 'voluntary contributions' which are self-explanatory.

Subsidies from various sources e.g. Private School Fund, will be considered to cover deficits. Surplus finance will be used via school fund for the benefit of the children.

Whenever possible, the school will give sufficient notice to allow parent/carers to pay by instalments.

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. Frequently the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

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
- Visits to the theatre
- School trips
- Transport

3. Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education. However, we do make a charge to cover the cost of board and lodging and a voluntary contribution for transport. Parents of children who receive free school meals and qualify for Pupil Premium are offered the option to make a reduced payment. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to discuss the matter in confidence with the headteacher.

4. Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5. Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We therefore make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part.

6. Lunch time / After School Sport and Creative Activities

The school offers additional activities after school and during lunch breaks. We reserve the right to make a small charge for these sessions.

7. Damage and Breakages

The school may ask parents to pay for damage to school property or equipment where this is a result of a pupil's misbehaviour.

This policy is monitored by the governing body, and will be reviewed as and when there are any changes.