

St. Michael's C of E Aided School



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Policy: Charging

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Introduction

We believe that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra curricular) independent of their parents' financial means. This policy has been informed by 'A guide to the Law for School Governors.' With this in mind we do not charge for any routine activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum plus religious education with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

Voluntary contributions

- When organising school trips, activities or visits that enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of this (if costs are incurred). These charges will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who cannot. All contributions are voluntary. However, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may have to cancel a trip or visit. 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. 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. The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive:
- visits to museums;
- sporting activities
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- travel to educational school trips/sporting activities
- musical events:
- travel to and entry for swimming lessons.

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

Residential visits

When the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do make a charge for the whole visit. Parents who receive state benefits are asked to make an appointment with the Head Teacher to discuss their individual circumstances.



Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. Visiting music teachers offer music and they charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. We provide parents with information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for Year 3. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We ask for a voluntary contribution to cover the entrance fee to the pool, tuition, and travel expenses. 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.

After School Clubs

The school offers after school club. There is a charge for these sessions and parents are asked to pay in advance of the activities otherwise the place may be lost. Football and Tennis are provided by outside organisations.

Willows After School Club

The school runs Willows which is open to all children. There is a charge for attending Willows. Invoices will be issued at the start of the term. To register your child for Willows parents should contact the school office in advance.

Remissions

The Head Teacher may from time to time decide to remit all or part of the cost of activities involving particular pupils. This will be at the Head Teacher's discretion. In other circumstances, there may be cases of family hardship, which make it difficult for pupils to take part in particular activities for which a charge is made. When arranging a chargeable activity, the Head Teacher will invite parents to apply in confidence for the remission of charges in part or in full. Authorisation of remission will be made by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. All parents, however, will have the right of appeal to the Governing Body, normally represented by the Chair or Deputy Chair of Governors.

General

The cost of repairing damage and replacing equipment (lost, defaced or damaged) remains the responsibility of the parents when this damage or loss is the result of their child's behaviour or negligence. Nothing in this policy statement precludes the Governing Body from inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of providing education for pupils.

Freedom of Information Act

Where a request is made for information held by the school under the Freedom of Information Act, the school will charge an hourly rate that reflects the actual cost of compiling the information and photocopying costs. The school will inform the person requesting the information what the likely cost will be before preparing the information.