



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Educate, Protect, Love, Serve

Our Vision Statement

*With the love of Jesus and the inspiration of Mary at our heart, we will be the best we can be.
At St. Mary's we provide every member of our school family with the opportunity to achieve academically and thrive spiritually and socially.*

CHARGING POLICY

Approved by: The Headteacher and Governing Body **Date:** October 2024

Last reviewed on: October 2024
Next review due by: October 2026

Introduction

This policy is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of section 457 of the Education Act, 1996 as amended by Section 200 of the Education Act 2002.

There are four principles underlying the provisions on charging:

1. That education in school should be free.
2. That activities offered wholly or mainly during normal school teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability to help meet the cost.
3. That there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education, but that LAs and schools have the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours.
4. That LAs and schools have the right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, or in support of any

activity organized by the school, whether during or outside school hours.

The Policy

The school recognizes that there are a number of activities which will only take place if parental contributions are available, but it stresses that no child will be excluded from any activity organized by the school because of the inability of their parents to pay such a contribution. However, if insufficient contributions are made then the school reserves the right to cancel an activity.

Optional Visits Wholly or Mainly Outside School Hours

E.g. an evening trip to the theatre, or a Saturday visit to a wildlife centre

It is the intention of the school to charge the full cost of visits which take place wholly or mainly outside school hours, and which are not provided as part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination and not required to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to religious education. The cost could include travel, insurance, admission charges, meals. These visits will proceed only if all those who wish to go pay the full cost of the trip in advance.

Visits wholly or mainly during school hours

E.g. visit to Truro Museum to study 'The Victorians', or a visit to the recycling centre

It is the intention of the school to invite voluntary contributions toward the cost of visits which take place wholly or mainly during school hours and which may, or may not, be provided as part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination and may, or may not, be required to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to religious education. The cost could include travel, insurance, admission charges and to cover supervisors' travel costs. Where parents are unable to pay the cost of a trip, they should discuss their situation with the Headteacher. However, the school will reserve the right to cancel the trip if there is insufficient financial support and the costs exceed the monies within the 'School Trip Budget'. The school will always aim to give parents sufficient warning of dates and costs of trips.

Board and Lodging Charges on Residential Visits

It is the intention of the school to charge the full cost of board and lodging on visits taking place wholly or mainly during school hours, or if out of school hours, provided as part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination or required to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to religious education. Where parents are unable to pay the cost of a trip, they should discuss their situation with the Headteacher. Voluntary contributions towards the costs of transport, insurance, admission charges, etc. incurred during residential trips will be requested and are a necessary prerequisite for the visit taking place

Individual Tuition in the Playing of a Musical Instrument

It is not the intention of the school to charge for such tuition where it is provided by LA employed schools' staff, whether in or out of school hours. However, where tuition or ensemble activities are provided by external agencies and peripatetic teachers, a charge will be made to pupils concerned.

Re-sits of Prescribed Public Examinations Where no Further Preparation Has Been Provided by the School

It is the intention of the LA to charge the full cost of the re-sit.

Entry to Examinations which are not Prescribed in Regulations Issued by the Secretary of State

It is the intention of the school to charge the full cost of the entry

Charges for Ingredients, Materials and Equipment

The school is prepared to provide any ingredients, materials, equipment needed for the delivery of the curriculum. Parents who are willing to contribute in cash or in kind, are encouraged to do so on a voluntary basis. The school may charge for, or invite parents to supply, ingredients, materials and equipment if parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product.

Charges for Breakages and Fines

Where breakages or loss of equipment (e.g. reading books) occur, the cost of replacement items will be billed to parents.

Recovery of Unpaid Charges

Sums payable by parents for wasted examination fees, for optional extras to which they had agreed, or for board and lodging, are recoverable as civil debts. However, in an endeavour to avoid such measures being necessary, the school will request contributions to be paid in advance when appropriate. If insufficient monies are paid, the school will reserve the right to cancel the arrangements.

Communications with Parents

The school has examples of model letters for communicating with parents about charges to be raised.

Responsibilities

The Headteacher will ensure that staff are familiar with and correctly apply the policy. The Governors will review the policy every two years.

Next Review September 26