

St James Church of England Primary School, Handsworth



CHARGING & REMISSIONS POLICY

January 2023

RATIONALE

The Governing Body of St James Primary School strongly believes in the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including trips, clubs and residential experiences can make towards children's education and life experience.

The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities.

Without some degree of voluntary parental contribution, some activities will not be financially viable within the financial resources of the school

CONTEXT

The law states that education provided during school hours must be free. This includes:

- materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by the Local Authority or the School
- education provided outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum
- instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent

No pupil may be left out of an activity because their parents cannot or will not make a contribution of any kind.

Schools and local authorities **can** charge for:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them;
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit;
- Breakfast Club, After-school Clubs,
- music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances;
- certain early years provision
- community facilities

HISTORY OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS & CHARGES AT ST JAMES

For many years, we subsidised trips and special events using funds raised through sponsored events. This became more and more difficult and so we then subsidised the trips programme but asked parents to make voluntary contributions to the costs. From September 2014, no voluntary contributions have been requested for any trips. No charges have been made other than for: board and lodging costs of residential visits; other than motivational, fun experiences e.g. trips to the Snow Dome, Bowling etc; Breakfast Club; Resources and equipment that become the property of the child.

AIMS

- To ensure the provision of a successful calendar of trips and visits to drive our children's learning and life experience
- To make school activities accessible to pupils regardless of family income.
- To provide a process which allows activities to take place at a minimum cost to parents, pupils and the school and;
- Which acknowledges the cost of such activities to the school's budget.

CHARGES

The governing body reserves the right to make a charge in the following circumstances for activities organised by the school:

Educational Residential Activities Taking Place Largely During School Hours

When a school informs parents about a forthcoming visit, they should make it clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of certain benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging – while some activities will be chargeable the school will consider a discount to the overall cost of the trip. Parents do have the right to claim free board and lodging if they are in receipt of the following state benefits:

- *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 you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)*

Fun Activities

The full cost to each pupil of all approved activities deemed to be optional extras that are not a necessary part of the national curriculum. e.g. post-SATs treats motivational outings e.g. Y6 Bowling in December.

Individual Instrumental Tuition

The full cost to the pupil for providing any instrumental tuition if the cost is not an essential part of the national curriculum or examination syllabus.

Learning Resources Which Are Owned By The Child

School occasionally signposts parents to supportive learning resources and orders these for interested parents and children to secure best value: the cost of these will be charged to parents at the same cost that the school purchases them for.

Kit / Equipment To Be Owned By The Child

Where a provider identifies specific kit or equipment e.g. swimming hats that are purchased by the school, parents will be charged at cost price.

Breakfast Club

Attendance at Breakfast Club is charged at £2 per day (reduced for siblings) to cover the cost of catering

REMISSIONS

If they are requested, there will be no obligation for any parent to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of school activities and to the School Fund. Pupils will not be treated differently whether or not their parents have made a contribution.

The Governing Body may wish to remit in full or in part the cost of other activities for particular groups of parents, for example, in the case of family hardship or multiple births. When arranging a chargeable activity such parents will be invited in confidence for the remission of charges in full or in part. The Headteacher, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, will make authorisation for such remission.

RESIDENTIAL VISITS & FUN EXPERIENCES

Residential visits and fun experiences are seen as distinct from educational visits.

It is prohibitive for school to cover the costs of these additional experiences.

- We will charge for board and lodging costs of residential visits. Parents may apply to the Governors for remission or assistance with payment.
- We will charge for transport & entrance for some “fun” activities e.g. post-SATs treats. Parents may apply to the Governors for remission or assistance with payment.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE BIRTHS

We recognise that any family with two or more children in a year group wanting to access a residential visit or fun experience will be placed in a financially challenging position

- School will charge for the first child and remove the cost to other children in the same family for attending the same trip

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary contributions are not currently requested from parents (From April 2016)

GENERAL

The Governing Body may from time to time, amend the categories of activity for which a charge may be made. Nothing in this policy statement precludes the Governing Body from inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of additional activities, which take place in school time. Parents may be advised that the continuance of an activity may depend upon voluntary contributions, but once it has been decided to run such an activity no qualifying child will be excluded on the grounds of voluntary contributions.

Developed in compliance with

Charging for school activities: Departmental advice for governing bodies, school leaders, school staff and local authorities DfE October 2018