



Care, Grow and Flourish in
God's Loving Hands.

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY 2024

VISION

Care, Grow and Flourish in God's Loving Hands

The theological underpinning of our school vision is the Parable of the Mustard Seed—Matthew 13:31-32
Jesus told them another parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in its branches.

Mission:

- We will recognise every child as precious and unique
- We will 'live' Christian values in our daily lives within a caring Christian environment
- We will enable every child to make the very best progress and growth through excellent teaching and we will deliver an inspirational curriculum to encourage them to flourish.
- We will work in partnership with children and families to promote growth, confidence and self esteem
- We will prepare children to confidently face the challenges of growing up in the 21st Century
- We will provide children with an understanding of local, national and global communities and faiths.
- With St Mary's Church, Brookside Methodist, and other local churches, we will further develop understanding of Christian values in action through worship.

Our [Safeguarding Statement of Intent](#) is available on our website.

Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: 20.11.24
Last reviewed in:	22 nd November 2023	
Next review due by:	November 2025	

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1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and the [Education Act 1996](#), sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England.

3. Definitions

- Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

Head teacher is responsible for implementation of the policy.

4.1 The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy. Monitoring the implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the governing body.

4.2 Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what we **cannot** charge for:

5.1 Education

- Admission applications
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

5.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

5.3 Residential visits

Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours

Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:

- The national curriculum
- A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
- Religious education
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional extras (see below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff

- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

6.3 Music tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

6.4 Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include:

- Educational day visits
- Educational residential visits

This school believes that no child should miss an educational opportunity because of financial difficulty in their family, and this is especially so as we experience rising costs of living. If you are a family experiencing a financial pressure that would prevent your child attending a visit, then please contact Mrs Constantinou in confidence. We may be able to help in some circumstances.

Payment is a voluntary contribution, however if insufficient contributions are received, the trip may have to be cancelled.

8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- Breakfast club

- After school clubs run by external providers.

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the governing board and reviewed in March each year. Parents will be informed of the charges for the coming year in June each year.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the governing board and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:

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 that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's annual gross income does not exceed £16,190)

Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family's income must be less than £7,400 per year – after tax and not including any benefits)

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Headteacher monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher every 2 years.

At every review, the policy will be approved by