

St James' Church of England Junior School (Voluntary Controlled)



Charging and Remissions Policy

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Reviewed by	Finance Committee
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St James' Church of England Junior School

Charging for School Activities

Under the 1988 Education Act, all schools are required to produce a written statement outlining their policy on charging parents for school-based or school-organised activities.

The law now states:

1. Schools may not charge for any activities which take place in school time with the exception of individual music tuition;
2. Schools may charge for activities provided wholly or mainly outside school hours, as long as these activities are optional extras (i.e. not part of the school's curriculum);
3. Schools may charge for board and lodging on residential courses;
4. Schools may invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions towards any aspect of the school's work.

OUR POLICY

Educational Visits

The school arranges educational visits to support the curriculum. These will be mainly day trips in which case parents will be informed of the cost to their child and invited to contribute that amount. No child will be excluded if they are unable or unwilling to pay but if costs cannot be met, visits may have to be cancelled. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents/carers have not paid any contribution. Occasionally the school will pay the additional costs in order to support the visit. This will depend on the nature of the educational advantage of the trip and is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Residential Visit

All children will have the opportunity during year 5 or 6 to attend a residential course to support aspects of the curriculum in outdoor education and environmental studies. In this case, parents are charged for board and lodging but not for tuition. Parents in receipt of income support, working tax credit, or whose children are entitled to a free school meal are charged at a reduced rate, as the meals element of their board and lodging is subsidised by the Local Authority.

Non Curriculum Educational Visits

Occasionally the school arranges educational visits outside the curriculum. Parents will be informed of the cost to their child and will be required to contribute that amount if their child is to go on the trip. If costs cannot be met, visits will be cancelled.

Music Tuition

Although the law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, music lessons are an exception to this rule. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 introduced a regulation-making power which allowed the Department for Children, Schools and Families to specify circumstances when charging can be made for musical tuition. The new Regulations, which came into force in September 2007, provide pupils with greater access to vocal and instrumental tuition. Charges may now be made for teaching either an individual pupil or groups of any appropriate size (provided that the size of the group is based on sound pedagogical principles) to play a musical instrument or to sing. Charges may only be made if the teaching is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum Or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s). At EWPS this would be tuition in addition to the Key Stage 2 Wider Opportunities and/or Every child a Musician (ECaM) programme.

Swimming Lessons

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the curriculum. There is no charge for this activity.

Extra Curricular

The school provides extra curricular activities, such as drama, football, other after school clubs etc. If the activity is provided by an outside agency there may be a charge which will be notified to parents at the time. Currently no charge is made for this. No charge will be made for materials such as those used in cooking and sewing but a charge can be made for finished items that the child wishes to take home. Parents may be asked to provide some of these materials. If refreshments are provided, there will be a charge for these.

Book club

The school runs a book club. A charge is made for all books purchased. Prices will be current at the time of purchase.

Healthy Snacks

The school provides healthy snacks and drinks for sale at break time. Prices are current at the time of sale.

School Uniform

A charge is made for school uniform. A full price list is available on request.

Charity Events

The school runs regular events to raise money for the school fund and for various charities. The participation of all children and parents is welcome.

Breakages

The school may seek to recover the cost of deliberate damage, or damage due to negligence, of school property or items permitted to be on the school premises.

This policy is monitored by the Governing Body and is reviewed every year.

Signed by Chair of Governors.....

Date.....