

A place where we aspire to excel in knowledge, faith and love

St James 'CofE Junior School



Charging and Remissions Policy

Headteacher: Rose Boland-Bourne

Agreed by Governors	May 2021
To be reviewed	May 2024

St James CoE Junior School
Tower Hamlets Road
Forest Gate
E7 9DA

St James' Church of England Junior School

Introduction

This policy has been formulated in accordance with Department for Education guidance on: Charging for Schools.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out how charges are applied to parents in relation to school activities, uniform and equipment. The Governing Body of the School is responsible for determining the content of the policy and the Head Teacher for implementation. The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, practical activities, trips and residential experiences can make towards pupils' personal and social education. 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. We believe that no child should have his/her access to the curriculum limited by charges.

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 Visits

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

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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 St James' this would be tuition in addition to the National Curriculum music lessons.

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, gymnastic and other after school clubs. 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 Fair

The school operates a book fair during Parents' Evenings. This is organised through Scholastic Books. 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. This can be purchased at Ian Howard Barking Road East Ham.

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.

Review and amendments

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body Finance Committee who may, from time to time recommend amendments to the categories for which a charge may be made. Any changes will be brought to the full Governing Body for ratification. However, the Governing Body reserve the right to review the Charging Policy when necessary.

By order of the Governing Body of St James Junior School

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(Signed) _____ Dated _____ (Head Teacher)

(Signed) _____ Dated _____ (Governor) Policy

Date: June 2021

Review Date: June 2024