



Charging and Remissions Policy

Agreed September 2020

Review date September 2021

We believe in the inclusion of all children in everything that we do in school. We believe that school trips, visits and practical activities enhance the pupils' learning and broaden their knowledge and experience. We aim to include every child in these types of experiences to enable them to fully experience what we have to offer at Sacred Heart.

Basic Principles

Newcastle City Council Financial Regulations for schools states it is the responsibility of the Governing Body to formulate and review a policy on charges.

No charge can be made for education during school hours. The definition of "education" includes material, equipment and transport provided in school hours by the Local Authority or the school to carry pupils between school and any curricular activity. School hours are those when the school is actually in session and do not include the break in the middle of the day.

Sometimes these are undertaken with the voluntary contributions of parents. No pupil will be excluded from an activity because his/her parents cannot or will not make a voluntary contribution. Where appropriate, the opportunity to pay in instalments will be offered to parents who wish to pay in this way. Any charges made may not exceed the cost of the trip/visit/activity. In all instances of residential visits a charge will be made to meet the costs of board and lodging, except where the remissions policy applies.

Voluntary Contributions

Parents may be invited to make voluntary contributions to extend the value of school funds. If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents, this will be explained at the planning stage. If a planned activity has to be cancelled any monies received will be returned. Parents will be asked to make voluntary contributions to school trips/visits. These contributions will not exceed the actual cost.

Where voluntary contributions are requested the terms of the request will clearly state:

1. there is no obligation to contribute
2. pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made a contribution
3. the proposed activity may not take place unless a majority of parents contribute
4. a suggested amount for a contribution to cover costs

Where an outside provider is used for out of school activities a voluntary contribution will be sought. Where transport is sourced from an outside provider a voluntary contribution will be sought.

The following is a list of possible activities for which voluntary contributions could be requested from parents:

- visits to museums/theatres/cinema
- musical events

- sporting activities which require transport expenses
- outdoor adventure activities
- residential visits

Remission

It is the policy of the Governing Body to review each individual case and may if appropriate apply the following:

1. to remit charges for school activities to parents (i.e. in receipt of Income Support, Working Family Tax Credit, Free School Meals, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Child Tax Credit) who had been unable to give a donation.
2. to look at individual cases where parents have been unable to give a donation.
3. to agree how to fund shortfalls for activities.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. Parents in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

Sports

The school offers additional sports coaching after school. Eg. a qualified FA coach, who is not a member of the school staff, runs and organizes football coaching sessions. We make a small charge for these sessions.

School minibus

We do not normally charge children if they are transported in the minibus to an extra-curricular activity.

Breakages

In cases of wilful damage to equipment or breakages, or loss of school books on loan to pupils, the Head teacher in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body may decide it right to make a charge. Each incident will be dealt with on its own merit and at their discretion.

School Uniform

School uniform is sold directly to parents through an independent clothing company.

Income from Donations

From time to time the school will seek voluntary donations for specific purposes. This may be via non-uniform days, sponsorship or for particular charity days e.g. Cafod, Red Nose Day. It will be made clear at the time of asking that such donations are voluntary and the purpose for which the donations will be used.

Responsibilities

Authority for the day to day management of the policy is delegated to the Headteacher who will determine the costs of activities other than those set by Governors.