



St Catherine's

CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Charging & Remissions Policy

Our Vision:

We show God's love in everything we do; inspired by the life and work of Jesus. We journey together in our learning, seeking wisdom through academic, personal and spiritual growth. Together is everyone, and every child matters. We celebrate the different and unique abilities, gifts and passions, of everyone in our school.

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Context

The school wishes to provide for all pupils the best possible educational opportunities available within the funds allocated by the Education Authority. The law states very clearly that education during normal school hours is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents and St Catherine's CE Primary School warmly endorses that principle and is committed to upholding the legal requirements.

It is recognised, however, that many educationally valuable activities have been and will continue to be dependent upon financial contributions in whole or in part from parents.

Without that financial support, the school would find it quite impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of the educational programme provided for pupils. The school's concern is to keep financial contributions to a reasonable minimum and to ensure as far as possible that all children are able to take part, irrespective of their circumstances.

The law recognises that charges may be made to parents in certain defined circumstances and St Catherine's CE Primary School has a policy concerning charges for day visits, residential visits and instrumental music lessons & milk.

We will always contact parents before asking for any financial contribution to school activities.

Day/part day visits

The school will only ask for a contribution where the cost cannot be met solely from the school budget. The amount of contribution is split equally between all children in the year group/s attending the trip; short falls will, where possible, be met from the school budget or trips will have to be cancelled.

No child would be restricted from these trips; although the school does reserve the right to cancel all trips where contributions are insufficient. When trips are cancelled all monies collected will be returned. Trips that extend outside the normal school hours should be paid for by parents and carers or the parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from the trip. In this instance the child will be catered for in a different class in school.

Milk

Children under 5 years of age and children entitled to Free School Meals are eligible for free milk. Charges will be made for milk provided at the request of the pupil's parent if not eligible for free milk.

Residential Trips

These are offered to children in year 4 & 6 and are predominantly funded by parents and carers. Charges will be made to parents for all board and lodging costs connected with residential trips.

Visitors to school

With rising fuel costs, more expert visitors will be asked to come into school and support the enrichment of our curriculum. The cost of these visits will be met from school budget where possible but St Catherine's CE Primary School reserve the right to ask parents and carers for a contribution towards part or all of the costs of these activities. Again, the cost would be shared equally between all of the pupils.

Music Tuition

Charges will be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or groups of any size, provided that 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 who provide the tuition. Charges will not be made where the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum or is provided under the first access to Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition programme.

No charge may also be made in respect of any pupil who is looked after by the Local Authority (within the meaning of section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Letting of the School Premises

When this occurs county guidelines are always followed with regard to charging.

Remissions

To ensure that access to activities becomes a reality and that outcomes reflect intentions, St Catherine's CE Primary School will implement the following Remissions Policy. The fundamental aim of this policy is to ensure that all pupils gain fully from everything that the school is able to offer them, and is based on an understanding of the relationship between low income, entitlement and access.

This policy takes into account the very real and persistent difficulties, which people on low income have in meeting the costs of educational activities for their children.

The DfE defines people in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from the cost of board and lodging on residential trips:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances (see section 452 of the Education Act 1996 for guidance as what counts as during school hours)
- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Support under part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, providing that Working Tax Credit is not also received;
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- An income related employment and support allowance;
- Parents and carers may request financial support for educational visits and school trips by making an appointment to speak to the Headteacher.