



Charging and Remissions Policy

'We will grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body depends on Christ, and all the parts of the body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love'. *Ephesians 4:15-16*

The Governors of St. Mary's CE (Aided) Primary School are committed to giving all children full access to the primary school curriculum on offer. No child will be excluded from curricular activities because of their parent's or carer's inability to pay for any charges that may be required. This policy sets out how the governors will make charges and set remissions for curricular, non curricular and extracurricular activities at St. Mary's.

1. Admissions

There is no charge for admissions.

2. School meals

There is no charge for children who are entitled to free school meals. Pupils who are not entitled to free school meals will be charged a set amount per week decided by the Governing Body. This charge will be kept in line with the Bury Local Authority school meal charges.

3. Public examinations (KS1 and KS2 SATs)

There is no charge for examinations that are part of the curriculum and on the school's set examinations list, where children have been prepared for the examinations by the school.

4. Activities that take place during school hours (this does not include the break in the middle of the school day)

There is no charge for activities during school hours with the exception of music tuition (**section 8**)

We may charge for:

- books and materials that the parent wishes the child to keep (the cost will be made clear to the parents before charge)
- optional extras (**section 5**)
- music or vocal tuition (**section 8**).

- transport costs for educational visits (**Section 12**)
- admission charges to visitor attractions during educational visits (**Section 12**)

5. Activities that take place outside of school hours (non-residential)

There is no charge for activities that take place outside of school hours when they are:

- part of the set curriculum, including sports games against other schools
- part of the syllabus for a public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school
- part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education.

Optional extras:

The school will charge for optional extras. Optional extras are:

- education provided outside of school time that is **not**:
 - a) part of the National Curriculum
 - b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - c) part of religious education
- examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- transport that is not taking the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or governing body has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education.
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit.
- certain commercially based curriculum clubs, for example 'Mad Science' (the cost will be made clear to the parents before charge)

The cost of optional extras

The head teacher will decide when it is necessary to charge for optional activities and these will be reported through the Local Authority budget monitoring visits.

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. There will be no element of subsidy required for any pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge (**section 11 and section 12**)

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
- 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 a proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra.

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to pay the charges. The school will need to have the agreement of parents before organising the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

6. Activities that take place *partly* during school hours either on or off site

Where the majority of a non-residential activity takes place during school hours the charging of the activity will be the same as is outlined in **section 4**.

Travelling time is included in time spent on activity.

In cases where the majority of a non-residential activity takes place outside of school hours the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate. So no charge can be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a visit.

In this case the charging of the activity will be the same as is outlined in **section 5**.

7. Residential activities

Our school will not charge for:

- teachers providing education on any visit that takes place during school hours
- teachers providing education on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

Our school may charge for:

- travel costs where the residential activity is classed as being within school hours (**section 12**)
- travel costs where the residential activity is classed as being outside school hours (**section 12**)
- residential activities that take place during school hours (**section 12**)
- residential activities that take place outside school hours (**section 12**)

Board and lodging

When any visit has been organised by the school where there will be a cost for board and lodging, parents will be informed of this before the visit takes place. We will charge anything up to the full cost of board and lodging on residential visits, whether it is classified as taking place during school hours or not. The charge will not exceed the actual cost.

Parents who can prove they are in receipt of certain benefits may be exempt from paying this cost (**section 11**)

Travel

The amount charged will be calculated to cover the unit cost per pupil. These charges may not apply to those pupils entitled to remissions, but no other pupils will be charged extra to cover those costs.

Activities

The school will charge for residential activities that fall **outside** of school hours (**see section 5**)

8. Music tuition within school hours

St. Mary's Primary School follows government legislation that states that all education provided during school hours must be free; however, music lessons are an exception to this rule.

Charges will 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), or the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (Year 5 violin tuition).

The school may charge for teaching requested by parents and delivered by specialist tutors given to 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. The cost of these lessons may depend on the size and duration of the class as well as the type of instrument.

The school will not charge if the music tuition is part of the National Curriculum or public examination syllabus being followed by the student.

9. Clubs, societies and homework/learning clubs

St. Mary's Primary School is dedicated to providing a well-rounded and extensive education for our students which includes a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These enable our school to provide:

- clubs for 'extra curricular' activities eg. choir, football, netball, cross country

- high-quality learning opportunities either side of the school day
- ways of intervening early when children are at risk of poor outcomes
- ways of increasing pupil engagement
- ways of improving outcomes and narrowing gaps in outcomes between different groups of pupils.

No charge is made for any of the above except where there is an external commercial charge (**Section 5**)

10. Damage to property and breakages

Where school property has been wilfully damaged by a student or parent the school may charge those responsible for some or all of the cost of repair or replacement.

Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged by a pupil, and the school has been charged, the school may charge some or all of the cost to those responsible.

Whether or not these charges will be made will be decided by the head teacher and dependent on the situation.

11. Remissions and concessions

A concession of £2.00 per pupil for each academic year is made towards the cost of educational visits.

The school will give consideration to the remission of charges to parents or carers who receive the following support payments:

- Income Support
- Income based Job-seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.

Parents who are eligible for the remission of charges will be dealt with confidentially.

The head teacher will authorise the remission of charges and report to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The school may choose to subsidise part or all of the payment of some charges for certain activities and pupils, and this will be determined by the head teacher, who will report to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

Children in receipt of the Government's PPG will be entitled to the remission of certain charges as follows:

- Half the cost of educational visits, including residential educational visits and transport costs
- Full cost of musical tuition, including instruments, music books and exam fees
(Section 8)

Further educational activities which fall outside the school day **(section 5)** may also be met for children in receipt of the PPG. These will be dealt with confidentially by the head teacher and reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

12. Voluntary contributions

The school, school governing body, or Local Authority may ask for voluntary contributions to the school for general funds and/or to fund activities that will enrich our pupil's education.

In any case where an activity cannot be afforded without voluntary funding, this will be made clear to the parents by the school. If the activity is cancelled all monies paid will be returned to parents.

There is no obligation for a parent or carer to make any contribution and the school will in no way pressure parents to make a contribution.

Inability or unwillingness to pay

St. Mary's Primary School is committed to ensuring fair access and treatment of all students, and this means ensuring that no child is excluded from an activity because the parents or carers of that child are unwilling or unable to pay. If there is insufficient funding for an activity, then it will be cancelled.

The identity of the child or parents of the child who did not want to make the payment, or could not make the payment, will not be disclosed under any circumstances.

13. Nursery charges

There is no charge for children attending the Nursery for the statutory 15 hours per week. Parents and carers may choose to pay for extra Nursery sessions (over and above the statutory 15 hours) according to the school's policy on Nursery Hours Flexibility. Charges are applied for pupils who access the 30 hours Nursery funding for the additional lunchtime session (£5) and a school meal (£2.30)

The Governing Body reviews the charges for these extra sessions annually each September.

14. School Uniform

In line with national guidance, no profit is made on uniform sales where parents and carers choose to buy their uniform from the school.

Parents are also able to buy uniform in the school colours from other shops and retail outlets.