



Together we love to learn
and learn to love

St. Mary's CE Infant School

Charging and Remissions Policy

St Mary's Infant school is committed to inspiring every child. We embed the Christian value of love across school life because we believe that a child who feels loved, secure and happy is a learning child. We encourage our children to achieve their potential, develop their talents, celebrate their uniqueness, and rejoice in their relationships with others.



The Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust believes that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered and, at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities.

Voluntary Contributions

Separately from the matter of charging, schools may always seek voluntary contributions in order to offer a wide variety of experiences to pupils. All requests for voluntary contributions will emphasise their voluntary nature and the fact that pupils of parents who do not make such contributions will be treated no differently from those who have.

The law states:

- If the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions the Governing Body or Headteacher will make this clear to parents from the outset.
- No child will be excluded from an activity because his or her parents are unable or unwilling to pay.
- If insufficient contributions are received, the trip or activity may have to be cancelled.
- If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay their child will still be given an equal chance to on the visit.

No charges will be made for the following:

- An admission application
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment);
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education;
- Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments (or singing) if the tuition is required as part of the National Curriculum, or part of religious education;
- Education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;
- Education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education;
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

Charges will be made for the following:

- Residential and non-residential activities (other than those listed above as not incurring charges) which take place outside school hours, but only if the majority of the time spent on the activity takes place outside school hours. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours.



- The board and lodging costs only of residential trips deemed to take place during school time. However, those pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging – please refer to the remissions policy below.
- Music tuition for individuals or appropriately-sized groups of pupils to play a musical instrument or to sing, and which is not an essential part of the National Curriculum.

Other matters

- When any trip is arranged parents will be notified of the policy for allocating places. This should recognise that parents may not be able to pay quickly and may have to budget for the trip over a reasonable period of time.
- If the number of school sessions on a residential trip is equal to or greater than 50% of the number of half days spent on the trip it is deemed to have taken place during school hours (even if some activities take place late in the evening). Whatever the starting and finishing times of the school day, regulations require that the school day is divided into 2 sessions. A “half day” means any period of 12 hours ending with noon or midnight on any day.
- The Local Governing Body may choose to impose charges for optional activities. Any charges made will not exceed the actual cost (per pupil) of provision, and parental agreement will be obtained before any such charges are made

Remissions

In order to remove financial barriers from pupils, the Local Governing Body agree that some activities and visits where charges can legally be made will be offered at no charge or a reduced charge to parents in particular circumstances, for example if the pupil is in receipt of free school meals.