



St. Joseph's Catholic
Voluntary Academy

Policy 4: Charging policy

Author: Governors



Mission Statement

“Believe Achieve, Succeed”

Under Saint Joseph's guardianship and protection, we will be supported to achieve and succeed in the things the Lord wants us to do.

Reviewed Autumn 2014

What is a charging policy?

Under the charging provisions set out in legislation, governing bodies and local authorities of maintained schools and academies may choose to charge for certain defined activities, but only if they have first drawn-up charging and remissions policies. These policies should be made available to parents on request.

St. Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy believes that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits. This policy has been written based on the guidance in the document 'Charging for school activities' produced by the DCSF.

Equality and Diversity Statement

As a matter of course, St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy staff are reminded about the compliance and importance of the Equality Act and ensure that all work undertaken complies and promotes equality of access and participation for all.

Our school takes a proactive and transparent approach to eliminate discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

Voluntary contributions

Trips or Visitors

At St. Joseph's we do not exclude children from school trips irrespective of payment. When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. However whilst there is no obligation to make a contribution, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, a trip may have to be cancelled. All children are treated equally irrespective of payment.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school may be able to pay additional costs in order to support the visit.

When organising a school trip the PTFA often cover the cost of the transport for every child, depending on funds available.

Residential visits

A residential visit takes place in school for year 5 and 6 every year. The activities provided are often not directly related to the National Curriculum but are enrichment activities and allow skills to be developed beyond the curriculum. Therefore the parents are asked for a voluntary contribution to cover the costs, which includes a share to cover the costs of board, lodging and travel expenses. The PTFA make a generous donation towards the cost of the coach. Parents who are experiencing financial difficulties can come and have a word with the headteacher in confidence.

When the school informs parents about a residential visit it is made clear that parents who can prove they are eligible for Pupil Premium Funding will receive extra support towards the cost of the visit.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. For individual or group music tuition, if it is not part of the National Curriculum, we charge for these lessons, to cover the cost of tuition.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in key stage 2 throughout the year. These take place in school time. Parents are asked to make a contribution towards this activity. Although children

whose parents choose not to contribute are not denied the lessons and take an active part, in the absence of sufficient contributions the activity would have to be cancelled.

Optional Extras

Charges can be made for some activities that are known as "optional extras". These activities take place outside of school time and are not part of the National Curriculum. The amount charged can cover the cost incurred of any materials, books, instruments, or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra, and teaching staff engaged to teach the activity.

St Joseph's has a variety of "optional extras" which are chargeable. Payment for these "optional extras" is not voluntary. Activities provided by the school can differ throughout the academic year. Some of these "optional extras" include: Basketball, Judo, Gymnastics, Football (dependent on the provider), Music tuition. Parents are notified of the cost of these activities and are required to pay in advance.