



St Nicholas' Primary and Nursery School

Policy on charging for and remissions for school activities

June 2022 Review date June 2023

The Staff and Governors of St Nicholas Primary and Nursery School 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 that 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.

The 1996 Education Act requires all schools to have a policy on charging and remissions for school activities, which will be kept under regular review. The review date for this policy is recorded at the end of the document

1. This policy identifies activities for which

- Voluntary contributions may be requested
- Charges will not be made
- Charges may be made
- Charges may be waived

2. 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 says:

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 go on the visit.

3. Charges will not be made for:

- a) An admission application to any state funded school – paragraph 1.9 (e&n) of the ‘School Admissions Code 2021’ rules out requests for financial contributions as any part of the admissions process
- b) Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment);
- c) Education provided 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;
- d) Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil’s parent;
- e) Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school*;
- f) Examination re-sit(s)* if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school;
- g) Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- h) Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- i) Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school
- j) Transport provided in connection with an educational visit.
- k) Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- l) Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- m) Education provided 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

* If a pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus a charge will be made.

4. Charges may be made for:

a) Activities outside school hours

Residential and non-residential activities (other than those listed in Section 3 above) which take place outside school hours, but only if the majority of the time spent on that activity takes place

outside school hours (time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours). (See below)

b) Residential visits during school hours

The board and lodging costs (but only those costs) of residential trips deemed to take place during school time, However pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see remissions policy below) will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging.

c) Music tuition

Music tuition for individuals or appropriate sized groups of pupils to play a musical instrument or to sing and which is not an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus for all pupils.

d) Optional extras

Activities that can be charged for (with the exception of board and lodging for residential trips) are regarded as 'optional extras'. Charges will not exceed the actual cost (per pupil) of provision

Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge may be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment. Optional extras are:

- i) education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - part of the national curriculum;
 - part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or
 - part of religious education.
- ii) examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;
- iii) transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority/governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education);
- iv) board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit;
- v) extended day services offered to pupils (for example breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

Is a school visit / residential trip in or out of school 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.

It is the policy of St Nicholas' Primary and School that charges will (or may) be made as indicated below. Parental agreement will be obtained before a charge is made.

Activity or thing which will or may be charged for	Notes	Remitted or help available
Charges will/may be made for any materials, books, instruments, or equipment ,where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them and in connection with the optional extra	Eg, a clay model – a charge to cover the cost of the clay	For category B
Charges will/may be made for teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra and also non-teaching staff	This includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra and the cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra.	
Music and vocal tuition provided either individually, or to groups of any size, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.	Charging may not be made if the teaching is either an essential part of the national curriculum or is provided under the first access to the key stag 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme.	For category B
Charges will be made for the board and lodging component of residential trips	The charge will not exceed the actual cost	Remission for category A (see below) and category B
Charges will be made for certain Early Years provision	Eg. Meals, consumables, additional hours or activities to parents accessing funded hours only.	
After School & Breakfast Clubs		
Extra-curricular after school clubs		For category B

5) Remissions

In order to remove financial barriers from disadvantaged pupils, the governing body has agreed 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. This remissions policy sets out the circumstances in which charges will be waived.

6) Families qualifying for remission or help with charges.

If remission or help is available in relation to a particular charge it is indicated in the right hand column of the table above. Criteria for qualification for remission are given below.

Category A

Parents may be eligible for free school meals if they meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria - visit the following website for details of eligibility criteria:-

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Parents who feel they have other special circumstances requiring assistance with payment will be offered an appointment to discuss these with the Head teacher. The final decision with regard to assistance payments lies with the Head teacher.

Category B

- Pupils in Year Groups Reception to 6 recorded as Ever 6 Free School Meals
- Looked After Children
- Children adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and children who have left care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order.
- Pupils in Year Groups Reception to 6 recorded as Ever 6 Service Child or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence

7) Additional Considerations

The governing body recognises its responsibility to ensure that the offer of activities and educational visits does not place an unnecessary burden on family finances. To this end we will try to adhere to the following guidelines:

- We shall publish notification of school trips and their approximate cost as far in advance as possible so that parents can plan ahead. The indicative list will be filed on the website.
- When any visit is arranged, parents will be notified of the policy for allocating places
- We have established a system for parents to pay in instalments
- When an opportunity for a trip arises at short notice it will be possible to arrange to pay by instalments beyond the date of the trip
- We acknowledge that offering opportunities on a 'first pay, first served' basis discriminates against pupils from families on lower incomes and we will avoid that method of selection.

Policy agreed by the Governing Body on: June 2022

**Signed: Robert Fletcher
(Chair of Governing Body)**

Review Date: June 2023