

John 15:12: This is **my commandment**, that you **love one another**, even as I have **loved** you.

Farnsfield St Michael's C of E Primary School



Charging and Remissions Policy

Introduction

The governors at St Michael's are committed to the general principle of free education for all. Occasionally, to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is enhanced to engage the children and further their learning, it may require additional funding in the form of voluntary contributions from parents. This policy sets out the guidelines for these requirements.

Voluntary contributions

Nothing in legislation prevents the governing body from asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the education of the pupils. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, head teacher should make this clear to parents at the outset. The head teacher must also make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution.

It is important to note that no child should be excluded from an activity simply because their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it must be cancelled. Schools must ensure that they make this clear to parents. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may contain children who have not made any contribution. Parents of paying children will not be subsidising the children of non-paying parents.

All requests for voluntary contribution will have been carefully considered by staff and be deemed as a highly desirable means of enhancing our curriculum.

Residential Visits

Under current legislation Schools can only ask for payment for the board and lodging portion of a residential trip. All other expenses must be requested as a voluntary contribution.

At St Michael's:

Parents will be asked to pay 100% of the board and lodging element of a residential visit. (Children in receipt of Pupil Premium have up to £100.00 paid towards a residential visit each academic year.)

Parents will be asked for a 100% voluntary contribution to cover the transport and entry fees etc.

Music Tuition

Although the law states that, in general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to that rule. The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 set out the circumstances in which charges can be made

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for tuition in playing a musical instrument, including vocal tuition. They allow charging for tuition in larger groups than was previously the case. Charges may now be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or to groups of any size, provided that the 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. 7 The regulations make clear that 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 stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme. They also make clear that no charge may be made in respect of a pupil who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22(l) of the Children Act 1989).

After School clubs

As these activities fall outside the normal school hours the school will charge for them. (Children in receipt of Pupil Premium may be exempt from these charges.)

Craft Materials

The school will provide the materials required for craft sessions, however if parents wish to own the final product, then a charge may be made.

Charges for breakages

The school encourages pupils to respect the property of others however if breakages do occur, due to the behaviour of a pupil, the school reserves the right to charge for them.

Financial hardship

The governors will always consider a written request by parents to reduce the cost of a residential due to financial hardship. These requests can be made in writing initially to the head teacher as soon as possible; each case will be reviewed on its merits.

Policy Review

This policy has been produced in consultation with the governing body, staff and parents.

This policy will be reviewed:	Every 3 years
It is due to be reviewed again on:	June 2024
It was approved by LGB on:	June 2021
Signed by Chair of Governors:	<i>J Fieldwick</i>