



St John's C of E Primary School

*'We are Learning for Living'*

# St John's C of E Primary School

## CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

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## 1. Introduction

The Governing Body may not charge for anything unless they have drawn up a statement or general policy on charging. This document sets out St John's charging and remissions policy. The review period is set for a maximum of two years but may be reviewed and amended at any point.

At St John's C of E Primary School, Lemsford we aim to nourish the curiosity in each child by creating a safe, nurturing and inspiring learning environment which is shaped by our shared Christian values and driven by a desire to embrace challenge and to grow holistically. We sum up this vision with the biblical quotation - "**I came that they may have LIFE and have it abundantly**" **John 10:10**. The implementation and execution of this policy **MUST** take into account the four key values of our vision, and our responses must be guided by them. The four key values are:

1. Living God's love every day
2. Inspiration for all to be the best that we can be
3. Forgiveness of others and for ourselves so we can all flourish
4. Equality of opportunity; welcoming all

When following this guidance, it should be read in conjunction with our full Vision and Values statement.

## 2. Policy Statement

### 2.1 Admissions

There is no charge for admissions.

### 2.2 School meals

There is no charge for children who are entitled to free school meals or infant free school meals. Pupils who are not entitled to free school meals will be charged a set amount per term decided by the catering supplier as approved by the governing body.

### 2.3 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, travel, and board and lodging for residential trips (see section 5).

There is no charge for transport during school hours to school-organised activities.

#### **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
- music or vocal tuition

### 2.4 Activities that take place outside of school hours (non-residential)

No charge will be made for activities that take place outside of school hours when they are:

- part of the set curriculum, *including sports matches against other schools*

- part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education.

## 2.5 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
    - 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.

### The cost of optional extras

The headteacher will decide when it is necessary to charge for optional activities, and the levels of charge will be set annually by the headteacher on the recommendation of the finance and personnel committee. The charges, when determined, will be published directly to affected parents.

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.

In no circumstances will there be an element of subsidy required for any pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

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.
- Additional costs such as insurance, electricity, water etc.

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.

## 2.6 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 2.3**.

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. No charge will be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a visit.

## 2.7 Residential activities

### Our school will not charge for:

- education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- 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
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit
- travel costs where the residential activity is classed as being within school hours
- residential activities that take place during school hours.

### Our school will charge for:

#### Board and lodging

When any visit has been organised by the school where there may 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** (see **section 2.11** for more guidance on remissions).

#### Travel

Travel charges may apply when the residential activity takes place outside of school hours. 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 may charge for residential activities that fall **outside** of school hours (**see section 2.5**).

## 2.8 Music tuition within school hours

St John's 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 (Wider Opportunities).

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 teaching 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. *This includes instruments, music books and exam fees.*

St John's is *dedicated to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils including access to specialised music tuition, therefore charges made for music tuition within school hours will be remitted for pupils on free school meals.*

*There is no charge for vocal or instrumental tuition for children in care. This includes instruments, music books and exam fees.*

## **2.9 Extended services**

St John's is dedicated to providing a well-rounded and extensive education for all our pupils which includes a wide range of extra-curricular activities (extended services). Through extended services the school is able to provide:

- high-quality learning opportunities either side of the school day
- ways of intervening early when children are at risk of poor outcomes, *e.g. by providing access to study support, parenting support or to more specialist services (such as health, social care or special educational needs services)*
- ways of increasing pupil engagement
- ways of improving outcomes and narrowing gaps in outcomes between different groups of pupils.

The total charge will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise others.

## **2.10 Damage to property and breakages**

Where school property has been wilfully or recklessly 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 headteacher and dependent on the situation.

## **2.11 Remissions and concessions**

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 (where the person is not receiving Working Tax Credit as well)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Income related employment and support allowance
- Universal Credit

Children of families who receive these payments are also entitled to free school meals. Parents who are eligible for the remission of charges will be dealt with confidentially.

The headteacher and chair of governors will authorise the remission of charges. 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 governing body and headteacher.

### **2.12 Voluntary contributions**

The Local Authority may ask for voluntary contributions from St John's school for general funds and/or to fund activities that will enrich our pupils' 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.

### **2.13 Inability or unwillingness to pay**

St John's is committed to ensuring fair access and treatment to all pupils, 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 for it. 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.