

# St Helen's Church of England Primary School



## Charging and Remissions Policy

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At St Helen's Church of England Primary School, we 'Love to Learn, learn to love, understanding that we are all different, but all equal'

This vision, rooted in Matthew 22:34-40, with our associated Christian values of Love, Friendship, Perseverance and Trust are the foundation of our school, this has inspired us when developing this policy.

### 1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- › Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- › Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will and will not be made
- › Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449 to 462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England.

It's also based on guidance from the DfE on [statutory policies for schools and academy trusts](#).

### 3. Definitions

- **Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- **Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

## **4. Roles and responsibilities**

### **4.1 The Governing Body**

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving the Charging and Remissions Policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Head Teacher.

The Governing Body also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

### **4.2 Head Teachers**

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

### **4.3 Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the Head Teacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

### **4.4 Parents**

Parents are expected to notify staff or the Head Teacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

## **5. Where charges cannot be made**

Below we set out what we **cannot** charge for:

### **5.1 Education**

- Admission applications
- 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
  - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education
  - Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
  - Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school

### **5.2 Transport**

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated

- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

### 5.3 Residential visits

- 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
  - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education
- Supply teachers, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupils on a residential visit

## 6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

### 6.1 Education

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- Optional extras (see section 6.2)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school **and** the pupil fails, without good reason, to meet any examination requirement for a syllabus

### 6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
  - The National Curriculum
  - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or governing board has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

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

- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- 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 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

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

### 6.3 Music tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, 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 giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum
- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

### 6.4 Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

## 7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include:

This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- school trips;
- musical events.

**There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay.**

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

## 8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

This list is not exhaustive:

- Breakfast Club
- Sports Clubs
- After School Clubs

### Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, there is no charge for the education. However, a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging and a voluntary contribution for transport and activity costs will be sought. If parents are experiencing financial difficulty they are invited to speak in the strictest confidence with the Head Teacher. For visits made out of school hours, a charge equivalent to the full cost of the visit will be made.

### Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

There is a charge for individual / small group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum.

Peripatetic music teachers are employed by the school and the parents are charged for these lessons on a termly basis.

### Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children in Year 6, Year 5 and Year 4. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We make no charge for the swimming lessons but request a voluntary contribution for the cost of the coach to take the children to the swimming pool. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

## 9. Remissions

In some circumstances, the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Governing Body and will depend on the activity in question.

### 9.1 Remissions for residential visits

- Parents/carers who can prove they are in receipt of any of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging for residential visits:
  - Income Support
  - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
  - Child Tax Credit – provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
  - Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
  - Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

## **10. Damage and breakages**

The school may ask parents to pay for damage to school property or equipment where this is a result of a pupil's misbehaviour.

## **11. Lettings charges**

The Finance Officer is responsible for raising invoices for lettings on a termly basis.  
Any lettings would be charged at the rate as agreed with the Finance Officer and Head Teacher

## **12. Monitoring arrangements**

The Head Teacher monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Head Teacher every year.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body.