

Holy Family Catholic School



Charging and Remissions Policy

**“Trying to make the world a better place, through creating a learning environment based upon Gospel values, where all children and adults become better people.”
Holy Family School Mission Statement**

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1. AIMS

Holy Family 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 be made

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 449-462](#) of which set out the law on charging for school activities in maintained schools in England.

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 Board

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 headteacher.

4.2 The Headteacher

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

4.3 Staff

Our staff are responsible for:

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

The senior leadership team 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 headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. WHERE CHANGES CANNOT BE MADE

Below we set out **what the school 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 exam that the pupil is preparing for at 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
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) 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 board 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:
 - o The national curriculum
 - o A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - o Religious education
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. WHERE CHANGES CAN BE MADE

Below we set out **what the school 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 below)
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances
- Certain early years provision
- Community facilities

6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, the school 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:
 - o The national curriculum
 - o A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - o 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/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

The school 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 during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

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

Class educational day trips, drumming workshop etc.

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 THIS SCHOOL CHARGES FOR

The school will charge for the following activities:

Early Birds Breakfast Club, Sunset Owls After School Club, holiday clubs, sports & extra-curricular clubs run by external providers, (where possible, clubs run by school staff are provided free of charge). Year 6 Residential Trip (Summer term).

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the governing board and reviewed in March each year. Parents will be informed of the charges for the coming year in September each year.

Year 6 Residential Trip (Summer term)

For insurance purposes the governing body needs to approve all residential trips.

At the final governing body meeting of each school year a report of the proposed Year 6 trip will be presented to the GB. The Year 6 teacher will prepare this report although the teacher need not necessarily be present at the meeting. The report must be discussed with the head teacher before presentation to the GB.

The report must include a *brief* comment on the following:

- Location of the trip
- Strategies for ensuring the health and safety of the pupils during the trip.
- The value and opportunities the trip offers eg. activities offered
- Staff/pupil ratio and cost to school or parent.
- Cover in school for additional staff who may need to accompany the Year 6 children.
- Number of children in year group whose parents may not be able to afford either part of the cost or the full cost.
- Cost of the trip – under different headings eg. cost of transport, additional salary costs etc.

The GB approval of a trip will be minuted in accordance with insurance purposes.

The GB does not wish any pupil to miss the opportunity of a residential trip because of extreme financial difficulties and parents/carers may seek help in meeting part or all of the costs by speaking in confidence to the head teacher. (Proof may be sought). However, the Governors have agreed that the minimum acceptable parental contribution for the Year 6 residential trip should be 50% of the total unless the school receives Pupil Premium funding for that child.

Educational Visits and Activities within the School

The maximum voluntary contribution towards educational visits or activities within the school will be no more than £50 during one school year.

Parents of twins are expected to pay for both children unless the family are entitled to free school meals and the school receives Pupil Premium funding for those children.

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 board and will depend on the activity in question.

9.1 Remissions for residential visits

Parents who can prove they are in receipt 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 that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's annual gross income does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family's income must be less than £7,400 per year – after tax and not including any benefits)

10. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The business manager monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher every year. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.