



St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School

CHARGING POLICY

There are no changes to this policy from the previous 2023 edition which was published.

May 2023
Review: May 2024
Amanda McGarrigle

St Mary's Church Of England School

Statements of Aims and Values

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Luke 18:16)

Our associated values are thankfulness, honesty, love, respect and resilience.

St Mary's Church of England School is committed to work towards racial equality and to combat racial discrimination and racial harassment.

Aim

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, neither do we charge for individual or group music tuition, instrument hire, or swimming tuition.

Voluntary Contributions

As part of curriculum enrichment, school trips are arranged on a yearly or termly basis. These are planned to enrich the educational experience of the children. All contributions are voluntary, but if we do not receive contributions, it may be necessary to cancel a school trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may be the case that it includes children whose parents have not contributed. In this case, we do not treat these children in any way differently from the others.

It is often the case that the school funds part or the whole of a trip, but where parents are asked to make a contribution they have the right to ask how the trip was funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of educational activities which require a voluntary contribution. This list is not exclusive:

- Sporting activities which require a transport expense
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Theatre visits
- School trips
- Musical events

Residential Visits

If the school organizes a residential visit in school time, or mainly school time, we do not require a voluntary contribution for the educational activities – these will be covered by the school. Parents and carers, however, will be expected to pay the costs of board, lodging and travel expenses. Where a parent is experiencing financial difficulty, they are invited to write to the Headteacher in confidence.

Swimming

As swimming is a part of the National Curriculum, we do not ask for a voluntary contribution. This decision was made in September 2008, to include all children taking part. Whilst we review this decision yearly, it is our belief that all activities undertaken as part of the National Curriculum should be free to all families.

Where contributions are requested....

Every effort is made to ensure that school trips are cost effective and value for money. School often receives reductions on ticket prices; and now, where possible, we use KCC coach hire, which is much cheaper. It is not the case that we would wish any child to miss out on a trip, either educational or enrichment based, because their parent(s)/ carers were unable to afford to contribute. Where this is the case, school will endeavour to support the parent's payment - asking for a lower contribution or payment in instalments. In making this statement, we also acknowledge that there are some trips where it is necessary that parent(s) /carers contribute. These are extra-curricular activities, and we would be unable to fund the trip otherwise.