

St Christopher's Charging and Remissions Policy

Reviewed: June 2019

Vision and ethos

In our school our Christian vision shapes all that we do. Our core Christian values of Love, Courage and Belonging are embedded throughout the school, always considering the key Bible text of John 10:10:

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it in abundance".

Rationale

St Christopher's CE Primary school believes that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents' financial means. This charging and remissions policy describes how we will do our best to ensure a good range of visits and activities is offered and, at the same time, try to minimise the financial barriers which may prevent some pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities. As a school, we rely upon contributions from parents to enable us to offer a wide range of educational outings and experiences. Parents should be aware that, on occasion, the headteacher may have to cancel a trip/visit if insufficient contributions have been received.

The 1996 Education Act requires all schools to have a policy on charging and remissions for school activities, which will be kept under regular review.

Prohibition of charges

Charges will not be made for the following activities:

- 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,
- Tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is part of the National Curriculum,
- Education provided on any school trip that takes place during school hours,
- Education provided on any school trip outside of school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum,
- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip

Charges

The following charges will be made:

- Individual music lessons in school, booked and paid for through the Oxfordshire County Music Service

The following charges may be made:

- Board and lodgings on residential trips (not to exceed the costs)

- The proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside school hours (optional extras) to meet the cost for: travel, materials and equipment, non-teaching staff costs, entrance fees and insurance costs
- Breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils (eg. Lost or damaged library books, reading books, reading records etc.)
- Extra-curricular activities and school clubs.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational trip.

Remissions

Children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments may, in addition to having a free school lunch entitlement, also be entitled to the remission of charges for board and lodging costs during residential school trips.

The relevant support payments are:

Income support

Income based Jobseekers allowance

Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income does not exceed the relevant level.

Voluntary Contributions

Parents will be invited to make a voluntary contribution for the following:

- Cost of transport
- Any activity which takes place during school hours
- School equipment

Any contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay, and that registered pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request.

The school will always provide the facility for parents/carers to pay for trips in installments. This will be available as an option on ParentMail.

The responsibility for determining the level of voluntary contribution is delegated to the Headteacher.

Policy Agreed by the Governing Body on - June 2019

Review Date: Summer 2022