

**St Joseph`s Catholic School
Charging and Remissions Policy**



Mission Statement

At St Joseph's we welcome all as members of our school family.
We learn and care for each other as brothers and sisters; enriched
by the teachings of Jesus.

We encourage Creativity; valuing our unique talents and skills as
gifts from God.

Working alongside pupils and parents/carers, we can all succeed
and realise great things.

Serving the communities within the Parish of St Joseph's and
St John the Baptist and beyond, we reach out to all.

We respect each other, our different cultures and faiths celebrating
our richness and diversity.

Through worship and prayer we show our love; striving to achieve
our very best.

Introduction

Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 sets out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England. Academies (including free schools, studio schools and university technical colleges) are required through their funding agreements to comply with the law on charging for school activities.

School governing bodies and local authorities, cannot charge for:

- An admission application to any state funded school;
- 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;
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

In accordance with the guidelines above, at St Joseph's Catholic School, all education during school hours is free, we do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

However, in order to provide a rich and varied curriculum we may ask for a voluntary contribution for particular activities or trips.

Voluntary Contributions

Nothing in legislation prevents a school governing body or local authority from asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities. When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary; there is no obligation to make any contribution.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school may be able to contribute additional costs in order to support the visit. However if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may have no choice but to cancel the trip; we will make this clear to parents at the outset; this would usually be the case for residential visits. Parents/ Carers have the right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities sometimes organised by the school which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- Visits to museums and the theatre;
- Sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- Outdoor adventure activities;
- School trips
- Musical events

Residential Visits

The school may offer children in Upper Key Stage 2 a residential trip. In accordance with the DfE we DO charge for board and lodging on residential trips. We are aware that some parents/carers may have difficulty in providing payment for these trips so we do try to keep costs low and we offer the option to pay by instalments to spread the total cost. However if we do not have sufficient monies to pay for the residential, then we would have to cancel.

Music Tuition

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

However, there is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. Brighton and Hove Music Service make a charge for these lessons.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We do ask for a voluntary contribution for this activity; particularly as we need to pay for transport. 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.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The school organises a wide variety of 'out of school hours' clubs. These are run by teaching assistants, teachers, specialist coaches or people within the community. A charge is made for some of these clubs.

We also charge for extended day services offered to pupils (for example breakfast club and Jolly Joe's after-school club).

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary prerequisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made. Payment must be paid by Parent Pay in advance for after school clubs.