

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that, during the school day, all children have full and free access to a broad and balanced curriculum. This policy defines the circumstances for making charges or inviting voluntary donations, for school activities and the circumstances in which charges will be partially or wholly waived.

The school day is defined as:

Roles and responsibilities of headteacher, other staff, governors

The headteacher will ensure that the following applies:

During the school day

All activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum plus religious education will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It excludes charges made for vocal or instrumental tuition for an individual pupil or a group. Unless the teaching is an essential part of either the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s), we will make a charge.

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs, for example, swimming, special activities involving high cost materials, trips involving travelling to another venue or visitors to school who provide a service.

In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents cannot or will not make a contribution. However, if the viability of the trip is dependent on voluntary contributions, parents will be informed of this from the outset. Parents will be sent a letter explaining any proposed charges or requests for voluntary donations. The school has the right to cancel an activity if there is insufficient financial support.

Optional activities outside of the school day

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, for example extracurricular clubs. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education, nor are they part of an examination syllabus.

Education partly during the school day

If a non-residential activity happens partly inside the school day and partly outside of it, there will be no charge if most of the time to be spent on the activity falls within the school day. Conversely, if the bigger proportion of time spent falls outside of the normal school day, charges will be made. When such activities are arranged parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

If a pupil is not allowed for disciplinary reasons to take part in an activity then full reimbursement will be made.

The school reserves the right to request parents to meet the cost of breakages and damages caused by their child's misbehaviour.

Parents may be asked to contribute to the cost of ingredients or materials in practical lessons where they wish to own the finished article.

Residentials

Charges will be made for board and lodging, except for pupils who meet the current free school meals eligibility criteria. Other charges will be made to cover costs where necessary following guidance. In such cases parents will be told how the charges were calculated.

Calculating charges

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can't. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and fundraising.

Parents who would qualify for support are those who meet the free school meal eligibility criteria.

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

Reports for Independent Schools:

When an application is made for a place for a St Paul's pupil at an Independent School, that School normally requests a report on that pupil from St Paul's. This report usually exceeds the statutory information which St Paul's is obliged to supply. St Paul's reserves the right to make a charge to the pupil's parents of £25.00 for each report for each application to help defray the cost of supply teaching time needed to release the class teacher to prepare this report.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

The Resources Committee of the governing body will monitor the impact of this policy by receiving on a termly basis a financial report on those activities that resulted in charges being levied, the subsidies awarded (without giving names) and the source of those subsidies.

Section J – Charges and Remissions – August 2017 Model Policy