

St Chad's Patchway CE VC Primary School

Charging and Remissions policy

'Learning to love, loving to learn'

Vision

All education during school hours is free. St Chad's does not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the school curriculum. We believe that all our children should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular), independent of their parents' / carers' financial means. This 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 children taking full advantage of the opportunities. The policy has been informed by *A Guide to the Law for School Governors*, *DfE Charging for Schools* and other pertinent guidance.

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, trips and residential experiences can make towards children's personal and social education. The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities, both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the children of the school and additional optional activities.

The school has no funds available to pay for such activities and without sufficient voluntary contributions an activity will be cancelled.

Aims

To enable all children to participate in the full life of the school including extra-curricular activities, trips and residential visits.

Charges and voluntary contributions

Parents/carers will realise that, if children are to enjoy the benefits of such educational experiences, which take place wholly or mainly during school hours, the Governors must ask for **voluntary contributions** to cover costs. However, for residential trips the cost of board and lodgings must be paid for by the parents/carers. A savings scheme will operate to allow parents to spread the cost of such trips over a longer period of time.

Activities run by external groups, such as peripatetic music lessons and certain after school clubs, do not fall under the scope of this policy. Instead the individual company will explain charges to interested parties. These activities do not fall within the description of a school curriculum and are run as a business enterprise by those external companies. The school makes no profit from these activities, or any activities where charges or voluntary contributions are asked for within the bounds of this policy.

The Governors would like to make it clear that:

1. Parents/carers do not have to make a **voluntary contribution** (see note regarding residential trips),
2. No child will be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contributions,
3. For a residential visit the cost of board and lodgings must be charged for and therefore the charge is *not* a voluntary contribution. Parents with genuine financial difficulties should approach the Headteacher who will be able to advise.

Parents/carers will be told what the contribution per child should be, based on the number of children. Parents/carers must also be aware that if those contributions do not raise sufficient funds to pay for the event, then the school may be forced to cancel said activity/ies.

Reviewed February 2024

To be reviewed February 2025