



## St Michael's CE VC First school Stone

### Charging and Remissions Policy

#### **Aim**

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for school activities, external lettings and extended school provision, what remissions will be implemented and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents. Guidance is based on the Education Act 1996: Sections 449-462.

#### **Responsibilities**

The Governing Body of the School are responsible for determining the content of the policy and the head teacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the head teacher (*and/or Governing Body*).

#### **Definitions**

**Community Facilities** - activities which the governors do not feel is of direct educational benefit to children at the school

**Extended school provision** - provision of childcare outside the standard school day where it is optional as to whether the child attends

**External Lettings** - letting to an organisation other than the school

**Remission** - where a charge is not payable, either in full or in part

**Sinking Fund** - a reserve put aside over a number of years to pay for major maintenance or renewal costs

#### **Policy for Charging for lettings Sept 2019-Aug 2020**

The school will follow the recommendations as laid down by the LA policy on when charges to be levied

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#### **Prohibition of Charges**

The Governing Body of the School recognise that the legislation prohibits charges for the following:

- 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, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- tuition for pupils learning to play musical instruments if the tuition is required as an essential part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil, or the first access to the Key Stage 2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme (Wider Opportunities);
- entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school;
- education provided on any trip that takes place during school hours;
- education provided on any trip that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the National Curriculum, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of the schools basic curriculum for religious education;

- Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential trip;
- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport;
- transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local education authority has arranged for pupils to be educated;
- transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he has been prepared for that examination at the school;
- transport provided in connection with an educational trip

No charges are made for :-

Meetings and functions of the PTA

Meetings of the Governing Body

Functions which raise funds for the school.

### Charges

- (a) board and lodging on residential visits (not to exceed the costs)
- (b) the proportionate costs for an individual child of activities wholly or mainly outside school hours ('optional extras') to meet the costs for:
  - (i) travel
  - (ii) materials and equipment
  - (iii) non-teaching staff costs
  - (iv) entrance fees
  - (v) insurance costs
- (c) individuals hiring of a musical instrument
- (d) re-sits for public examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
- (e) costs of non-prescribed examinations where no further preparation has been provided by the school
- (f) any other education, transport or examination fee unless charges are specifically prohibited
- (g) breakages and replacements as a result of damages caused wilfully or negligently by pupils
- (h) extra-curricular activities and school clubs
- (i) Letting of the school premises or grounds
- (j) Extended school care activities such as breakfast club, after school club, holiday clubs and nursery provision
- (k) Charges for materials or ingredients where the pupils wish to have the finished product
- (l) Cost of transport to take part in work experience

- (m) School meals and tuck
- (n) Extra-curricular music lessons £2 per lesson to a maximum charge of £60.

Lettings will incur a standard charge of £16.70/hour. £30/two hours.

However we have special arrangements in place for some long term lettings. Bee Active are currently being charged £125/week to host the holiday sports club, this is on the proviso that they open up and lock up the school themselves and clean all areas of the school used. The Scouts and Guides also have a charge of £650 for the hire period when rehearsing their shows, again this is on the proviso that they open up and lock up the school themselves and clean all areas of the school used.

All persons who wish to hire the school premises should either have their own third party insurance or utilise the County Council Insurance Public liabilities scheme.

Other lettings will sign a lettings form agreeing the conditions of each letting which will then be filled in by the Headteacher.

The Governing Body will take all reasonable steps to adhere to the legal requirement regarding the letting of school premises.

The Governing Body will take all reasonable steps to follow the general guidelines regarding the letting of school premises.

The Governing Body endorses the conditions recommended by the LA and will make hires aware of them regarding the letting of school premises.

The Governing Body will apply VAT regulations and charge VAT as required by statute.

Consideration also needs to be given to:

- the proportion of the costs recovered where a charge is to be made;
- whether any remission is to extend beyond the statutory minimum;
- whether or not special consideration is to be given to hardship cases not contained within the exemptions and how this is to be determined;
- arrangements for education where the parents fail to pay the charge being levied by the school;
- the level of support from the school budget where the level of voluntary contributions is insufficient to fund the visit or journey;
- the maximum amount that can be used from the school's budget to support community facilities is the amount of the school standards grant allocation;
- any charge for a pupil activity should not exceed the actual cost. If further funds need to be raised to help in hardship cases, this must be voluntary
- for lettings, the charge should at least cover the cost, including:
  - Services (heat & light)
  - Staffing (security, caretaking & cleaning)
  - Administration
  - Wear & tear (sinking fund)

### **Remissions**

Children whose parents are in receipt of the following support payments will, 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:

- a) Income Support;
- b) Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- c) Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- d) Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HMRC) does not exceed £16,190 (Financial Year 14/15).

**Voluntary Contribution**

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

- a) School visits
- b) the cost of materials to cover additional activities such as a visiting theatre group, photocopying additional resources
- c) collections after concerts
- d) charity days

The terms of any request made to parents will specify that the request for a voluntary contribution and in no way represents a charge. In addition the following will be made clear to parents:

- a) that the contribution is genuinely voluntary and a parent is under no obligation to pay; and
- b) 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 costs of any optional extra undertaken by any pupil whose parents/guardians are unable to pay may not be included in the charge to other pupils but must be funded through the delegated budget, school fund or other fundraising.

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

Date of Policy approval March 2008  
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Signed..... Chair.....