

St John the Evangelist Primary School Charging Policy

Our School's Vision Statement

“St. John’s is a caring, Christian community striving to support its members to achieve their God given potential. Exploring our unique gifts and raising aspirations, we prepare our children for the challenges of the modern world. Following Jesus’ example, we seek to grow good people who can make a difference.”

We believe that

**“Children are a gift from the Lord.”
(Psalm 127 v.3)**

We believe that any gift from God is most precious. This makes children the most precious gift. Consequently, developing and supporting every child in our care to become the best that they can be is fundamental to all that we do.

1 Introduction

1.1 All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum, with the exception of some individual or small-group music tuition.

2 Voluntary contributions

2.1 When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

2.2 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 pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

2.3 The following is a list of additional activities, 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;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- educational visits;
- musical events.

3 Residential visits

3.1 If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly school time, we ask for contributions towards the cost of the visit. All visits are regularly evaluated in order to offer the best value for money to our parents and children. Parents who find it difficult to meet the cost of a residential trip are invited to discuss their concerns with the school and assistance may be provided.

4 Music tuition

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

4.2 There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. We make a charge for these lessons, but parents in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5 Swimming

5.1 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 therefore make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their written permission for their child to take part. We do request a contribution towards the cost of the coach to travel to and from the leisure centre where the lessons are held.

6 Sport

6.1 The school offers additional sport coaching after school. When provided by an external agency a small charge will be made.

7 Monitoring and review

7.1 This policy is monitored by the Finance and Buildings Committee and will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

Policy reviewed and approved by Finance and Buildings 2018

