

St Mark's CE Primary School



Charging Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this Charging Policy is to inform staff and parents about how the school will charge for various activities. It has been compiled using guidance from the Hampshire County Council website, and conforms to the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988.

Responsibilities

The Governors, in conjunction with the Head Teacher, are responsible for the implementation of the charging policy.

Principles

A fundamental principle of charging for school activities is that any charge made cannot exceed the cost of the provision. This also means that some pupils cannot be subsidised by 'over-charging' others; closely linked to this is the fact that charges to pupils cannot be made to cover the costs of teachers accommodation on school trips or supply cover for teachers' absence.

In-School Activities

Following the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, no charge will be made for books, materials, equipment and instruction in connection with the national Curriculum or Statutory Religious Education taught in school, except where parents have indicated in advance their wish to purchase a particular item. The only exception where a charge will be made during school time concerns music lessons.

Out-of-School Activities

A charge will be made to cover any or all of the following; accommodation, travel, materials, equipment, tuition, entrance fees and insurance associated with residential trips. Parents must agree to these charges before the activities are undertaken. Voluntary contributions may be requested from parents for activities such as after-school clubs. Sometimes these activities cannot take place without sufficient voluntary funding; however, it will be made clear when requesting contributions that they are entirely voluntary, and that no individual

pupils will be excluded by reason of inability or unwillingness to make a voluntary contribution.

School Property

Parents may be asked to make a contribution towards replacing damaged or lost school property caused wilfully or negligently by their children.

Remissions

The policy provides for the complete or partial remission of charges for pupils whose parents are eligible for free school meals (not universal free school meals) income based job seeker's allowance, family credit or disability working allowance. Charges for other 'chargeable activities' may also be fully or partially remitted. Details of any remission arrangements will be made clear when parents are informed of charges for individual activities.

This policy was reviewed by the FGB Spring 2024

This policy is next due for review in: Spring 2027