

**Charging Policy**

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  **CHARGING POLICY**

This policy has been drafted with regard to the Education Act 1996:

**“Under the charging provisions of the Education Act 1996, LEAs and Governing Bodies may choose to charge for certain defined activities, but only if they have first drawn up a statement**

**of their charging and remissions policy.”**

# 1. Educational School Visits

A number of educational school visits will be arranged each year involving groups of children. The school will invite parents to make voluntary contributions towards associated cost of travel, entrance fees etc., for these visits. **Children will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents choose to contribute.** It is important to point out, however, that these visits can only take place if sufficient voluntary parental contributions are made.

# 2. School Fundraising

There will, from time to time, be a non-uniform day in return for a voluntary donation of at least £1 from participating children and other fundraising activities. School fundraising is used to pay for items such as Christmas festivities and other occasional small-cost demands.

# 3. Foundation Flexi Hours (via Parentpay)

Parents who wish to ‘buy in’ additional hours in the Foundation Unit, will pay the going rate of £4 per hour, in advance for that term, if places are available. Parents who wish for their child to stay in the Unit across lunch time will be charged for the supervision provided by the school at the going rate of £3 per hour. Requests for parents to pay monthly will be considered by the school but at least half of the full cost will need to be paid in advance of the term starting.

**4. Activities which necessitate payment by parents/carers’ must be paid via the online Parentpay system**

The Academy reserves the right to make a charge for activities in the following circumstances:

1. School Visits within School Hours:

Residential school visits involving board & lodging costs.

Where the parents of a pupil are in receipt of means tested state benefits they may be exempt from the cost of board and lodging for any residential activity that is organised for the pupil, if the activity is deemed to take place within the school hours or where it forms part of the syllabus of the National Curriculum. This applies, if in receipt of income support, Family Credit, and Disability working allowance or an income based jobseekers allowance.

1. Musical Instruments:

Costs associated with individual tuition in the playing of a musical instrument, whether in or out of school hours (unless it is provided as part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination or is required by the National curriculum. The tuition charge does not cover music examinations which are to be paid by the parent/carer. The cost for this service is subsidised considerably by the school.

1. Items or services supplied by outside agencies but provided through the school

(e.g. School meals, school uniform, breakfast clubs etc)

If these services, e.g. school meals, are not paid for in a timely manner the service will be withdrawn for that particular pupil until suitable payment arrangements have been made with the parents.

 Specialist performances, classes, workshops by visiting educational groups which are not required to fulfill statutory duties.

1. Lettings

The school doesn’t presently hire the hall outside of school hours. If and when this begins, charges will be calculated against costs to the school.

1. Activities Outside School Hours

The full cost to each pupil of activities deemed to be optional extras taking place outside school hours. This cost is dependent upon the activity.

1. Costs of breakages, vandalism, lost school property

Including books, pencils, pens where these have occurred because of deliberate pupil behavior.

# 5. Private Telephone Calls and Photocopying

Although mobile phones are not allowed in school, staff can use them securely in the staff room during their lunchtime or breaks. Any private phone calls or photocopying must be reported to the school office and an invoice will be raised at the minimum cost (incl. VAT).

# 6. Donations to Charity

The School supports CAFOD as its named Catholic Charity and will endeavor to raise donations for that fund each year. The School will also endeavor to support one other local charitable cause each year, at the discretion of the Head of School.

The school is ever mindful of the many demands on parents for money. There is no wish to cause embarrassment to any child over money (or lack of it). Parents who are unable to meet specific requests for money are asked to contact their child’s teacher, the school office or the Head of School.

Where parents/carers’ are unable to access the on-line payment system (Parentpay), arrangements can be made for these parents/carers’ to pay in any Paypoint store with cash, these are often located in local shops.