



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY 2020

Introduction

This policy has been formulated in accordance with the Local Authority guidance on charging for school activities.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out what charges will be levied for activities, what remissions will be implemented, and the circumstances under which voluntary contributions will be requested from parents.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of St George's School is responsible for determining the content of the policy and the Headteacher for its implementation.

Charging

In general no charge can be made for admitting pupils to maintained schools and where education is provided wholly or mainly during school hours it should be free. However, the Headteacher may ask parents for voluntary contributions towards the cost of activities that are wholly or mainly during school session time and that incur a cost over and above the normal day to day expenditure.

St George's School recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities and trips make towards the pupils' educational experiences.

We will not charge for:

- Any activities which take place in school time,
- Any activities which are part of the syllabus of a prescribed examination or are required to fulfil statutory duties
- Any activity relating to Religious Education even if it occurs outside of school time

We will:

- Invite parents and others to make voluntary contributions to class funds and towards the cost of any other activity
- Charge for activities that are provided wholly outside of school hours, as long as these activities are optional extras
- Charge for board and lodging on residential trips except to pupils whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits (see remissions)
- Charge for the cost of materials for use in art/CDT projects and for the cost of ingredients in food technology where the parents have indicated in advance that they wish to own the finished product
- Charge for wilful damage to property and other's possessions

Damages or Breakages

A pupil responsible for non-accidental damage to school property, such as books, equipment, windows etc, will render the parent liable for the cost of repair or replacement. In cases of accidental damage to personal property within school application, are to be made to the Headteacher to cover full payment at his/her discretion or refer to the Chair of Governors if the claim is considered to be excessive.

In any matter of dispute arising over interpretation, the Governors will be guided by the DfES and the County Council regulations currently in use.

Voluntary Contributions

Voluntary contributions will be requested for any activity taking place during the school day which will incur a cost that is over and above the normal day to day expenditure of the school, e.g. trips, outings, workshop sessions within school etc.

St George's School expect that no child should be excluded from an activity because his/her parents or carers did not make a voluntary contribution. However, it must be recognised, and parents will be warned in advance, that unless a majority are willing to make the voluntary contribution, the planned activity may not be able to take place.

Remissions

We do not wish to see any child disadvantaged because their parents or carers are unable to pay for a chargeable activity.

The board and lodging element of residential trips will not be charged to parents in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190.
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 01 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

In all other cases of family hardship we will give consideration to the remission of all or part of the charges. Parents or Carers should approach the Headteacher in confidence who, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, will be able to authorise such remission of charges.

This policy will be reviewed annually

Date Agreed: July 2020

Date of next review: July 2021

SignedHeadteacher

Signed.....Chair of Governors

Date