



## St Francis Catholic Primary School Policy for Charging

The Governing Body cannot charge parents and pupils for any activity unless it has drawn up a charging policy. Moreover, when made, charges per pupil cannot exceed the actual costs incurred, which mean that pupils who can pay should not be charged extra to cover the costs of those who cannot afford to.

The Governing Body must not charge for any activities which take place when the school is actually in session, excluding the break in the middle of the day. The exception is musical instrument tuition for individual pupils or pupils in groups of up to four, as long as such teaching is not an essential part of the National Curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil(s).

If the school wishes to run an activity during the school day for which it would need contributions from parents or others, it can invite voluntary contributions. However, no child should be excluded from such activity because his or her parents cannot or will not contribute.

The school can charge for optional, extra activities provided mainly or wholly outside school hours as long as such activities are not an essential part of the National Curriculum or religious education. Activities which are an essential part of the syllabus for an approved examination must be provided free. Chapter 23 of A Guide to the Law for School Governors provides further, detailed guidance on residential and activities provided during school hours by external bodies.

### **Status** Statutory

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that, during the school day, all children have full and free access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

The school day is defined as: 8.55 am – 3.15 pm

The policy complements the school's equal opportunities policy, curriculum policy and teaching and learning policy.

### **Roles and responsibilities of headteacher, other staff, governors**

The headteacher will ensure that the following applies:

### **During the school day**

All activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum plus religious education will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment and transport to take pupils

between the school and the activity. It excludes charges made for teaching individual pupils or groups of up to four pupils to play a musical instrument.

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs, although these will be kept to a minimum and wherever possible be budgeted for from the main school budget. In these circumstances no pupil will be prevented from participating because his/her parents/carers cannot or will not make a contribution. Children of parents who do not make a contribution will not be treated any differently. If a particular activity cannot take place without some help from parents, this will be explained at the planning stage. An activity may be cancelled if not enough voluntary contributions are collected.

### **Optional activities outside of the school day**

We will charge for optional, extra activities provided outside of the school day, for example sports clubs run by external organisations. Such activities are not part of the National Curriculum or religious education, nor are they part of an examination syllabus.

### **Residential Trips**

Full charges will be made for board and lodging, except for pupils whose parents are in receipt of Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit (providing that working tax credit is not also received and the family's income does not exceed £15 575 pa) or the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit. Contributions will be asked for to cover the cost of the coach travel and other activities during the trip.

### **Calculating charges**

When charges are made for any activity, whether during or outside of the school day, they will be based on the actual costs incurred, divided by the total number of pupils participating. There will be no levy on those who can pay to support those who can't. Support for cases of hardship will come through voluntary contributions and the school budget.

Parents who would qualify for support are: those in receipt of Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit (providing that working tax credit is not also received and the family's income does not exceed £15 575 pa) or the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.

The principles of best value will be applied when planning activities that incur costs to the school and/or charges to parents.

### **Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation**

The Finance Team will monitor the impact of this policy by receiving on a termly basis, a financial report on those activities that resulted in charges being levied, the subsidies awarded (without giving names) and the source of those subsidies.

Date ratified governing body 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)

Date for review: \_November 2017