

St Austin's Catholic Primary School



Charging & Remission Policy

Autumn (1) 2024

Policy agreed by the Full Governing Body of St Austin's Primary School:

On:17th October 2024..... Signed:.....

A Kay Davis

(Chair of Governors)

To be reviewed:.....Autumn (1) 2026.....

"In our school, where everyone is special,
we will love and serve as Jesus taught"

"En nuestro colegio todos somos especiales.
Amaremos y serviremos como Jesús nos enseñó"

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Introduction

All education during school hours is free. St Austin's do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents/carers 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/carers have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

The 1988 Education Act draws a distinction between the term 'charges' which are considered to be an obligatory cost and 'voluntary contributions' which are self-explanatory.

Subsidies from various sources e.g. School Fund, SAPTA, will be considered to cover deficits. Surplus finance will be used via school fund for the benefit of the children.

Whenever possible, the school will give sufficient notice to allow parents/carers to pay by instalments.

If a parent/carer 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.

The following is a list of additional activities, organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents/carers. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- school visits;
- musical events;
- transport

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. Parents/carers of children who receive free school meals are offered the option to make a reduced payment.

Music tuition

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

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all 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.

Lunch time / After School Sport and Creative Activities

The school offers additional activities after school and during lunch breaks. We reserve the right to make a small charge for these sessions.