



ST MARIE'S SCHOOL, A Catholic Voluntary Academy

CHARGING POLICY

*“Each child has a divine beginning and an eternal destiny. We help him/her on that journey”
School Mission Statement*

1. Introduction

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

2. Voluntary contributions for activities as part of the Curriculum

When organising school trips, visits or workshop activities which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the activity. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel the activity.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, the child is still allowed to participate fully in the trip or activity as long as parental consent has been given.

If appropriate and funds allow, the school or HSA may pay a proportion of the costs in order to support a visit.

3. Music Tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. Extra-curricular clubs such as choir, theatre club or recorder are also without charge.

There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. This charge is paid directly to the Sheffield City Council Music Service which provides peripatetic music teachers to teach individuals or small group lessons on the school site. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

4. Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for children in Years 3-6. Lessons take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. There is no charge for these lessons.

5. Optional Extra Activities

(Activities which take place wholly or mainly outside school hours and are not required in order to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to Religious Education)

5.1 Activities organised by the school

It is the governors' policy to charge for such activities organised by the school if costs are incurred in setting up or organising these activities. The basis for calculating the charge will be proportionate for each participating pupil.

Some optional activities, which take place before or after school, may not have a charge associated with them, e.g. Cross-country club, Marathon club. Generally, activities organized during the lunch break do not incur a charge.

5.2 Activities not run by the School

When an organisation acting independently of the school arranges an activity to take place during school hours and parents want their children to join the activity, such organisation may charge parents.

6. Childcare

The school organises a Breakfast Club to care for children from 8am until the start of school. Parents are billed for this charge according to attendance. The current cost is £3 per child per session.

There is an after-school club at the school, run by a separate organisation, which operates from the end of school to 6pm each school day. Charges are paid directly to that organisation, not the school.

7. Residential Visits

The school organises annual residential visits for Year 5 and Year 6 children. The cost of this trip includes board & lodging, transport, materials, entrance to any sites visited and charges for any activities to be experienced.

The governors' policy is for the school to cover a proportion of the cost of any additional teacher or teaching assistant time necessary to lead the trip, and a proportion to be included in the charge for parents. Where available, support will be provided for children of families on forms of income support or in special circumstances to enable them to take part. This is stated clearly on letters and is dealt with discretely and in confidence by the headteacher. It is the policy that a contribution is paid for every child, no matter how small. Parents will be given the option of a payment plan to spread the costs of a residential visit.

8. Charging in Kind

The cost of ingredients, materials, equipment etc. needed for practical subjects such as food technology or design technology is budgeted for and borne by the school. However, the school may charge for or require the supply of ingredients and materials if the product is to be owned and taken home by the child afterwards e.g. food products.

9. Equal Opportunities

Every effort will be made to ensure that opportunities covered by this policy are accessible to all pupils (eligible by year group or age) irrespective of gender, race or disability.