

Work together, Play together, Learn together...Shine
"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:16



St George's School, Bourton

Charging and Remissions Policy 2021

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Charging and Remissions Policy

The Governing Body of St George's School are mindful of their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and have screened this document to ensure compliance with the law.

The intention of the Governing Body is to make available to pupils of the school as wide a range of educational activities as possible, whether as part of the formal curriculum or as an extension to it.

St George's School objectives for charging for provisions are:

- To ultimately maintain the *right to free school education*
- To establish that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal teaching time should be *available to all pupils* regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost
- To emphasize that there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education or related activity, but to recognize that LAs and schools have the *discretion to charge for optional activities* provided wholly or mainly out of school hours
- To invite voluntary contributions from parents in support of such activities, whenever permitted by the legislation
- To remit charges to families in receipt of Income Support, Family Credit, income based Jobseeker's Allowance or Disability Working Allowance where required, and to remit charges in particular cases as appropriate
- To invite parents to pay, in cash or 'in kind', for materials used in school where parents have indicated a wish to own the finished article incorporating those materials

There is no obligation for parents to contribute towards activities; indeed, pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not the parents have made a contribution.

However, if there is insufficient money collected to cover the costs of a trip or activity without subsidisation by the school, the activity may have to be cancelled.

Many activities are currently partially subsidised out of the school budget and/or funded by our wonderful PTFA.

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Charges for School Activities

1. Admissions

All education during school hours is free from compulsory charges.

2. School Meals

There is no charge for pupils who are entitled to free school meals. Pupils who are not entitled to free school meals will be charged at the current rate.

3. Public Examinations

There is no charge for examinations that are part of the national curriculum and on the school's set examinations list, where pupils have been prepared for the examinations by the school.

4. School Activities and Trips

School trips or visits, whether they are for one day or residential, enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the pupils which include:

- ◆ visits to museums/stately homes
- ◆ outdoor adventure activities
- ◆ a variety of field work trips
- ◆ visits by live theatre groups
- ◆ visit by the Life Education Centre
- ◆ musical events
- ◆ sporting events

The school does not have sufficient funds to pay in the entirety for this type of activity and therefore parents/carers are requested to contribute towards their cost. All contributions are voluntary. If the school does not receive sufficient voluntary contribution the trip may be cancelled. If the activity is cancelled all monies paid will be returned to parents/carers.

Any voluntary contribution asked for in respect of an activity or visit will not exceed the total cost to the school divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

It will therefore never include an element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to contribute the full amount.

The school is committed to ensuring fair access and treatment of all pupils, and this means ensuring that no pupil is excluded from an activity because the parents/carers of that pupil are unwilling or unable to pay.

If there is insufficient funding for an activity, then it will be cancelled. The identity of the pupil or parents/carers of the pupil who did not want to make the payment, or could not make the payment, will not be disclosed under any circumstances.

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The school often subsidises some of the day trip costs in order to support a visit. However, the board and lodging costs of residential trips must be met in full from parent/carer contributions except for pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium (where the payment is met by Pupil Premium). All other costs incurred are voluntary.

5. Music Tuition

All pupils study music as part of the national curriculum for which there is no charge. The school may charge for teaching requested by parents/carers and delivered by specialist tutors given to either an individual pupil or groups of any appropriate size to play a musical instrument or to sing.

The cost of these lessons may depend on the size and duration of the class as well as the type of instrument. The specialist teacher is paid as an external provider. These lessons will be an optional extra to those taken in school as part of the national curriculum. The overall cost of this type of tuition will be borne by the parents/carers in its totality.

6. Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all pupils during the summer term in our own pool. These take place in school time and are part of the national curriculum. We ask parents/carers to make a relatively small voluntary contribution towards the lessons and running costs of the pool.

7. Extra-Curricular Activities

The school offers many after school activities. A financial contribution is required for activities that are run by external providers

Remissions

Wherever necessary, monies will be refunded to parents if it is possible and/or unless a cost has been incurred by the school.

The Governing Body requires that, when writing to parents to ask for payments or to invite contributions, the Headteacher should state clearly the circumstances which permit charging to take place, the arrangements for remission of charges, and the items to be covered by the payments or contributions.