

Saint Benedict's Catholic Primary School **Charging and Remissions Policy**

In light of the Education Reform Act 1988 (Circular 2/89)

Introduction

The legislation maintains the right to free school education. We as a school agree in principle to this. The only exceptions in place are as follows: -

- Instrumental tuition during the school day (small groups or individuals). This presently is provided by Mrs Thomason (Piano, guitar & ukulele) and Francis Caudwell (ukulele and guitar) and contracts are made between themselves and parents to cover any costs. The school makes no charge for the use of its premises.

Definition of Charges

The legislation refers only to charges made by the LA, the school, or the governing body for "*optional extras*" outside of school hours.

- Outside organisations i.e. a third party, may charge parents/pupils for activities, visits/services involving pupils from the school within school time. Parents would be under no obligation to receive these services but would be required to ask the school to grant their children leave of absence to join any activity requiring time away from school. Any teaching staff involved would have to be satisfied that any arrangements would secure the safety and welfare of the children.

- Parents may also be invited to make a "voluntary contribution" to meet the cost of providing an activity/visit.

Voluntary Contributions for one day trips

Trips that are organised within the school day should be with the sole intention of enhancing the child's experience and knowledge of a particular subject. The school is unfortunately unable to fund such trips and always asks parents to make a voluntary contribution.

"A voluntary contribution of £..... is requested, if sufficient contributions are not received we may have to cancel the trip but it is hoped that this will not be necessary."

No child will be excluded from a trip should a voluntary contribution not be received for whatever reason, financial, refusal etc. The deficit will be borne by Saint Benedict's school budget.

Residential trips

The school organises residential trips for a number of year groups and depending on their size these will either be shared visits or single age.

The education visits coordinator (EVC) in conjunction with the head teacher and class teacher will look at the type of residential required and make enquires of various organisations. Cost, location and activities are taken into account when a decision is finally made.

Parents are given details of the residential booked for their class/child and will be given plenty of time to pay a deposit and make payments by instalments if necessary. Where possible the school will try to use local authority owned outdoor education centres enabling those families on benefits to be able to take advantage of the waived fees. However they will be expected to pay for the transport.

The cost of residential trips should be borne entirely by the parents.

If a child is unable to attend for financial reasons the parents are asked to talk to the EVC or head teacher to discuss the possibility of reducing the cost.

14/11/17

Swimming

The school organises swimming sessions for all Year 3 and Year4 children and this is part of their PE entitlement. The cost of this activity is paid through the school's budget.

Extracurricular Activities

Any activities run by school staff are usually free of charge. Organisations running clubs immediately after school for our own children and whilst staff and site maintenance officer is on site, will charge for the activity but no charge is made for the use of the premises.

Lettings

The school is available for organisations to hire the school, out of school hours, and these are in line with our lettings policy. Charges are in line with local authority charging data updated annually.