

Charging and Remission Policy

October 2017



Saint Augustine Webster Catholic
Voluntary Academy



Mission Statement

The school will aim to:

- develop an awareness of God's love and presence in individual lives and to elicit a response to that;
- help pupils to develop a reasoned set of attitudes, values and beliefs allowing the individual to make sound and moral judgements in the light of personal commitment to the Lord, Jesus Christ;
- make prayer, worship and liturgy valued experiences;
- develop real links with home and parish;
- create caring relationships with all those children and adults who are involved in the school.

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General Principles

The School Governing Body is committed to the general principle of free education, recognising the valuable contribution that a wide range of activities, including school visits, residential experiences and clubs, can make towards all aspects of pupils' education. The Governing Body would accordingly wish to promote and provide as far as possible such activities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the benefit of pupils of the school. All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

Charges

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents 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 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, School Friends' Association and other voluntary organisations) 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 parent/carers to pay by installments.

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, 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. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

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

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- school trips;
- 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 Curriculum, we do ask for a voluntary contribution to subsidise the cost of travel expenses and to cover the costs of board and lodging.

No child will be excluded from participating in an organised residential trip because their parent/carers are unable or unwilling to contribute.

Music Tuition

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

There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by external providers and as such they make a charge for these lessons.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Year 4. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We therefore make no charge for this activity

After School Sport and Creative Activities

The school offers additional activities for after school sessions, some of which are taught by external providers. We reserve the right to make a small charge for these sessions.

Breakfast Club and Out of School Club

The school runs a Breakfast Club from 8am which provides a simple breakfast and supervision until the start of the school day. There is a charge to cover the cost of foodstuffs and to cover the costs of staff supervision. The school also runs an Out of School Club on the same principle.

Remissions

Where the parents of a pupil are in receipt of Income Support, Family Credit, an income-based Jobseeker's Allowance a Disability Working Allowance, the Governing Body will remit in full the cost of board and lodging for any residential activity the school organises for the pupil if the activity:

(i) takes place within school hours,

or

(ii) forms part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination or fulfils statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or religious education, irrespective of whether the activity takes place within or outside school hours.

Any other remission arrangements for a particular activity or pupil will be entirely at the discretion of the School Governing Body. Any subsidy provided by the Governing Body will be met from the funds at its disposal.

Voluntary Contributions

Nothing in this policy statement precludes the School Governing Body from inviting parents to make voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any school activity, whether during or outside school hours. Any contributions sought will be entirely voluntary and pupils will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents make a contribution in response to any invitation.

Breakages and Damage to School Property

The School Governing Body reserves the right to seek reparation from parents where their children cause breakages or damage to school property.

Review

The School Governing Body reserves the right to review and amend this policy statement from time to time, as appropriate.

October 2017

Review date: October 2018