

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School



'Let your Light Shine'

Charging Policy

Date reviewed: 20-04-23

Date of next review: May 24

Date ratified by the Governing Board: 15-05-2023



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School is a special learning community which strives for excellence, where everyone knows they are loved, where they feel happy and secure and have a positive self-image. As a Catholic school, based on the Gospel and teaching of the Church we recognise the equality and dignity of all people in the eyes of God.

The school's Catholic ethos, which brings a deeper understanding of the Gospel values of trust, respect and dignity, permeates our education endeavours. We aim to create an environment in which Gospel values are exemplified and live out;

- for the children and adults in our school community to achieve their full human potential in all aspects of school life, particularly as one of God's family.
- to develop and encourage effective partnerships and create meaningful interaction between home, school, parish and the wider community.
- to promote equal opportunities and the appreciation of cultural diversity.
- to provide a framework for a way of living within and outwith the classroom.
- by celebrating achievement at every level, so that all may feel valued as unique creations of God and recognise their self-worth.

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.

Voluntary contributions

When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. 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.

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 which require transport expenses;
- Outdoor adventure activities;
- Visits to the theatre;
- School trips abroad;
- Musical events;
- Ingredients for cookery;
- Plays or performances within school.



Remissions

From time to time some children may be unable to afford to pay in full or in part for an activity inside or outside of school hours. The Headteacher reserves the right to waive charges if she feels it may cause undue financial burden on any given family.

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly 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 who receive state benefits are exempt from payment.

Music tuition

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum and we invite in a specialist music teacher to deliver a strong creative musical curriculum. We provide the opportunity for some Key Stage 2; and some Key Stage 1 children to learn a musical instrument, e.g. recorder, glockenspiel, and Ukulele. We do not charge for this. Further music tuition including guitar, flute, clarinet and trumpet is offered through Newcastle Music Service. These activities are charged for and arranged for families independently. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

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 make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents to inform us in writing if their child is unable to take part in swimming lessons.

Breakages and Fines

Parents may be asked at times to pay for the cost of replacement or repair where damage or loss is considered to be the pupil's fault.

Conclusion

St Catherine's firmly believe that we should be supporting every child to achieve their full potential, socially, physically, morally, educationally and providing additional activities is an important aspect of this. Within the current climate of restricted funding for schools the contributions made by parents towards these activities is vital to them continuing. We will continue to make charges and ask for voluntary contributions where appropriate always taking care that this is done sensitively.

