



# Charging & Remissions Policy

## Policy Review

This policy was adopted and agreed by the Governing Body on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body every year.

It is due for review in the Summer 2024.

Signature

Interim Executive Headteacher

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Signature

Chair of Governors

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## **Revision Record**

Revision No.	Date Issued	Prepared By	Approved	Comments
1	4.5.23	SF&KM	FGB	The Key Model Policy annotated to meet the local context and the needs of the school.
2				
3				

***All the governors and staff of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School are committed to sharing a common objective to help keep the children and staff of the school community safe. We ensure that consistent effective safeguarding procedures are in place in order to support families, children and staff of the school.***

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### 1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- › Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- › Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will and will not be made
- › Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may prevent some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449 to 462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England.

It's also based on guidance from the DfE on [statutory policies for schools and academy trusts](#).

### 3. Definitions

- › **Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- › **Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

### 4. Roles and responsibilities

#### 4.1 The governing body

The governing body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

The governing body also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

Monitoring the implementation of this policy has been delegated to the Finance Working Party.

#### 4.2 Headteachers

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

### 4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- › Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- › Notifying the headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

### 4.4 Parents

Parents are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

## 5. Where charges cannot be made

Below we set out what we **cannot** charge for:

### 5.1 Education

- › Admission applications
- › Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- › Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
  - The National Curriculum
  - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education
- › Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent
- › Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- › Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

### 5.2 Transport

- › Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- › Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- › Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- › Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

### 5.3 Residential visits

- › Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- › Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:

- The National Curriculum
  - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education
- › Supply teachers, covering for teachers who are absent from school, accompanying pupils on a residential visit

## 6. Where charges can be made

Below we set out what we **can** charge for:

### 6.1 Education

- › Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him or her to own them
- › Optional extras (see section 6.2)
- › Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see section 6.3)
- › Certain early years provision
- › Community facilities

### 6.2 Optional extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- › Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
  - The National Curriculum
  - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
  - Religious education
- › Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- › Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or governing body has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- › Body and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- › Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions)

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- › Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- › The cost of buildings and accommodation
- › Non-teaching staff
- › Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- › The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

### 6.3 Music tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- › If the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum
- › If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- › For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

### 6.4 Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

## 7. Voluntary contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents to fund activities which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include:

- School trips, visiting theatre groups, writers or musicians, sports fixtures, visits to places of educational value, the travel and activity elements of residential visits held largely within school time, ingredients or materials for practical subjects.

**There is no obligation for parents to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unwilling or unable to pay.**

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

- The Diocesan Building Fund

Contributions towards the Building Fund will be requested at the start of every school year and can be made via the school payment system, Tucasi: <https://www.scopay.com/holycross-pri?redirect=true>

## 8. Activities we charge for

The school will charge for the following activities:

- Breakfast Club (Early-Morning Care)
- After-school clubs
- Music/vocal tuition if it is not required for the National Curriculum and is provided for an individual pupil or for groups of pupils

The charge includes staffing, resource costs and cost of meals and snacks if appropriate.

For regular activities, the charges for each activity will be determined by the Headteacher and School Business Manager and reviewed termly. Parents will be informed of the charges for the coming term via Scoopay when they book their child on.

- The school may charge for the cost of replacing items that are damaged or lost due to the negligence or poor behaviour of pupils or their parents. Parents will only be charged the replacement cost to purchase the same or equivalent item. The school will consider waiving costs in exceptional circumstances, e.g. financial hardship.

**Photocopying:** Any photocopying that is requested by parents relating to their child, under the 'Freedom of Information Act', will be charged at **10p per sheet and 20p for any colour printing.**

**Private fees:** Any report or data that is requested on a child for the purpose of a third party private assessment requested by a parent (eg. Mid-year pupil progress report for solicitors, private psychologist reports or solicitor reports) will be charged at an agreed rate by the Head Teacher in discussion with the Chair or Vice-chair of Governors. This rate will include a cost for staff time to sort and collate the relevant information (not less than £10 per hour) as well as photocopying charges (not less than 10p per sheet) and postage.

## 9. Remissions

In some circumstances, the school may not charge for items or activities set out in sections 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Headteacher and School Business Manager and will depend on the activity in question, and the individual circumstances of the child and family.

## 10. Monitoring arrangements

The School Business Manager monitors charges and remissions, and ensures these comply with this policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher and School Business Manager annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body.