

The policy with regard to charging and remissions forms part of our finance policy.

However, to meet our legal requirements for the website these are the parts of the policy relating to charging for the school.

Charging, Remissions and Lettings

The Governors encourage the wide use of the school by the general community. We fully understand that our School and grounds represent a substantial investment in facilities which should be used to the optimum. In this way we are able to serve both our essential education purposes and be seen and used as a centre for the benefit of the whole community.

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the requirements education acts and following guidance from Surrey County Council. Whilst Sections 459-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England. No legislation is currently available for children's centres.

School Provision

Education Provided Within School Hours

Education provided by any maintained school for its registered pupils should be free of charge if it takes place wholly or mainly during school hours, school hours being those hours when a school is actually in session and not including the break in the middle of the day. This means that neither the pupil nor his or her parents or guardian may be required to pay for, or to supply, any materials, books, instruments or other equipment for use in connection with education provided during school hours.

Music Tuition

The main exception to the principle of free education, which the law allows is that a charge may be made in respect of individual tuition in playing any musical instrument, even if such tuition takes place during school hours.

Voluntary Contributions – the legal context

The legal restrictions on charging for school activities do not restrict us from seeking voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of any school activity, whether during or outside school hours, residential or non-residential, and including inviting parents to supply or pay for materials used in craft and cookery lessons etc where they wish to own the finished product.

If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contribution, the governing body or the head-teacher should make this clear to parents at the outset. At the same time it can be made equally clear that the activity will not take place if parents are reluctant to support it.

The St Paul's Governing Body's Charging Policy

If a charge or voluntary contribution is sought it will not exceed the actual per pupil cost of the activity or event. If further funds are needed for additional costs e.g. to help hardship cases these will be sought through alternative funding streams. Participation will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet such charges as are made.

Voluntary contributions are always sought for off-site visits where entrance costs and/or transport costs are involved.

Voluntary contributions are sometimes sought to cover the costs of visitors to school such as local historians and theatre groups. The governing body is mindful of the economic circumstances of parents and the headteacher seeks to ensure that the contributions sought both financial and products (such as contributions sought by The Friends for fetes and bazaars) are not over onerous. As such costs for visitors may be met from the delegated funds, school funds or via contributions from The Friends.

Contributions are not sought from parents to cover materials used in school for activities such as art, technology or cooking.