



St Nicholas Catholic High School

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY 2024

Version Control

Current version	Previous version	Summary of changes made
2017		
2020	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added community facilities as a charge • Music tuition updated • Updated voluntary contributions section including removing reference to direct debit payment option • Updated qualifying list of benefits
2021	2020	No changes
2022	2021	Updated transport charges with reference to the managed bus service
2024	2022	No changes

Policy Impact Statement	
Policy: Charging and Remissions	
This Policy has been implemented:	
Fully	✓
Partially	
Occasionally	
Not at all (give reasons why)	
What revisions need to be made:	
To the Policy?	See Version Control Above
To its implementation?	

Introduction

Sections 449-462 of the Education Act 1996 set out the law on charging for school activities in schools maintained by local authorities in England.

This policy accurately reflects the terms of the Education Act 1996, complies with that requirement and defines the limitations under which charges and remissions may or may not be levied.

St Nicholas Catholic High School will inform parents on low incomes and in receipt of the benefits listed on page 9 of this document of the support available to them when being asked for contributions towards the cost of school visits.

The Governing Body will not charge for:

- an admission application to St Nicholas Catholic High School;
- 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, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of 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; and
- examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school.

The Governing Body will charge for:

- any materials, books, instruments, or equipment, where the child's parent wishes him/her to own them;
- optional extras (see below);
- music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (see page 6);
- Community facilities

Optional extras

Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge will be made for providing materials, books, instruments, or equipment. Optional extras are:

- education provided outside of school time that is not:
 - a) part of the national curriculum;
 - b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school; or

c) part of religious education.

- examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school;
- transport including the school managed bus service providing home to school transport arrangements (refer to the transport section for exceptions)
- board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit;
- extended day services offered to pupils (for example breakfast club, after-school clubs, tea and supervised homework sessions).

In 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, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra; and
- 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 exceed the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating. It will not therefore include an element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

Furthermore 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. Therefore, no charge will be made for supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary prerequisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

Participation on visits or trips will also be subject to the school's policy on Educational Visits and Overnight Stays.

Voluntary contributions

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

Some activities for which the school may ask parents for voluntary contributions include: school trips and sports activities. The governing body will make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, this will be made clear to parents at the outset.

If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it will be cancelled and this will be made clear to parents. When making requests for voluntary contributions, parents will be advised that contributions are voluntary and not compulsory.

No child should be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child must still be given an equal chance to go on the visit.

Music Tuition

Although the law states that, in general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to that rule.

Charges may be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually, or to groups of any size, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

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

Charging will not be made

- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum.
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

Transport

The Governing Body will not charge for:

- transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local education authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport and/or the pupil qualifies for free travel assistance;
- 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 has been prepared for that examination at the school; and
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit.

Residential visits

The Governing Body will not charge for:

- 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, or part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of religious education;
- supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

The Governing Body will charge for:

- board and lodging although the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

When school informs parents about a forthcoming visit, it will be made clear that parents who can prove they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Universal Credit (if the application was made on or after 1 April 2018, the family's income must be less than £7,400 per year – after tax and not including any benefits)
- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- Working Tax Credit run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after an individual stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's annual gross income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,190 (figure subject to annual review);
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit;
- income related employment and support allowance.

Education partly during school hours

Where an activity takes place partly during and partly outside school hours, there is a basis for determining whether it is deemed to take place either inside or outside school hours. However, a charge will only be made for the activity outside school hours if it is not part of the national curriculum, not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school and not part of religious education.

If 50% or more of the time spent on the activity occurs during school hours, it is

deemed to take place during school hours. Time spent on travel counts in this calculation if the travel itself occurs during school hours. School hours do not include the break in the middle of the day.

Where less than 50% of the time spent on an activity falls during school hours, it is deemed to have taken place outside school hours. For example, an excursion might require pupils to leave school an hour before the school day ends, but the activity does not end until late in the evening.

Remission

Remission of any charges to be levied can be made by the Headteacher in appropriate circumstances.

By order of the Governing Body of St Nicholas Catholic High School

Reviewed by: Finance, Resource and Personnel Committee	Date: 31 st January 2024
Ratified by Governing Body	Date: 25 th March 2024
Review of Policy Due By	Date: January 2025

