St Mary’s RC Primary School Sabden
Charging Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 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 music tuition.

2 Voluntary contributions

2.1 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.

2.2 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. Children who are eligible for Free School Meals are not required to make the voluntary contribution.

2.3 The following is a list of types of additional activities organized 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;
- musical events.

3 Residential visits

3.1 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. A charge is made to cover the costs of board and lodging, travel and for the activities as well as travel insurance. Children who are eligible for Free School Meals are exempt from payment.
4  **Music tuition**

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

4.2 There is a charge for individual music tuition if this is not part of the National Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. Parents in receipt of state benefits are exempt from payment. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5  **Swimming**

5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for children in Years 3/4. 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.

6  **After school clubs**

6.1 The school offers after school activities such as football, dodgeball, photography, drama. A small charge is usually made for these activities but on occasions the clubs may be offered at no charge subject to sufficient centrally-allocated funding. Children who are eligible for Free School Meals are not charged for these activities.

Signed:  

Michael Mulrooney, Chair of Governors

Date: November 2017

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