

Charging & Remissions Policy



ST CLARE

Catholic Multi Academy Trust



St Thomas of Canterbury School

Mission Statement: To nurture curiosity for every child, every day, within a community acting as a beacon of the Catholic faith.

Date of approval of this policy:	July 2021
Approved by:	Governing Body
Date of last review:	October 2024
Date of next review:	October 2026

Introduction

The principle of free education for all is central to the 1944 Education Act. However, it is recognised that, whilst wishing to provide additional and enriching experiences for all pupils, the funding available is not always sufficient to do so without asking for contributions from those able to make them.

Voluntary Contributions

Many activities undertaken at school can only happen because parents have contributed either to the cost, or by the provision of materials, ingredients, equipment, etc. Legislation establishes that the restrictions on charging for school activities do not in any way prohibit or restrict the school 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 nonresidential.

If sufficient voluntary contributions have not been received, then the activity may not take place. Such contributions will be genuinely voluntary and the terms of the request will make clear:

- That there is no obligation to contribute;
- That no pupil will be treated differently according to whether or not his or her parent has contributed in response to the request.

The criterion governing any contribution or charge will be that no profit will be made. At all times, we will try to ensure that a pupil's educational experience is not diminished by financial hardship. In line with the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988 and the Charging for School Activities 2009 legislation, we have produced this policy.

1. Charging

Charging can be made for the following areas of activity:

- The proportionate cost of a residential visit or of a school day trip / event (i.e. total cost / number of children = charge). Such events are planned to enhance the curriculum.
- Costs associated with individual tuition in the playing of a musical instrument, whether in or out of school hours;
- After School Activities;
- Concert tickets;
- Extra-curricular activities.

Payment from parents will be sought for damage to, or loss of, school property, caused willfully or neglectfully by the children.

2. Remissions

In the case of residential visits, we will contact the parents or carers of those pupils who are in receipt of Free School Meals to discuss the cost.

Any family who are not in receipt of free school meals but need support due to exceptional circumstances, may apply to the Headteacher for help towards board and lodgings.