

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Charging Policy



Written September 2015



The Governing Body endorses the policy of the LEA with respect to charges for school activities.

1. Wirral Local Authority endorses the principles that education provided in maintained schools should be free and that no pupil's education should be affected by his or her parent's unwillingness or inability to pay or to contribute towards the cost of pupil's education.
2. Pupils should not be required to pay for any materials, books, instruments or other equipment for use in connection with education provided during school hours; but schools may charge for or require the supply of ingredients or materials for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product. (For personal music tuition however, charges will be made.)
3. School trips and visits form an important part of the curriculum offered by our school. Parents are not required to pay for such visits, but may be asked to make voluntary contributions towards their cost. No pupil will be excluded from a school trip because of his or her parent's inability to contribute, but it is hoped that parents will feel able to support the school in its efforts to provide a full and interesting curriculum for all its pupils. If contributions made are not sufficient to enable a planned trip to take place, the Headteacher may cancel the trip or make such changes to the organisation of the trip as they think necessary. All trips and visits will be organised under the direction of the Headteacher and in accordance with the guidelines issued by Wirral LEA (Circular 1/86). Teachers organising such trips will be responsible to the Headteacher at all times.
4. Parents are asked to meet the board and lodging costs of residential trips.
5. Parents may be charged for activities defined as "optional extras" under the terms of the Education Reform Act 1988. These are activities which are provided mainly out of school hours and which are not part of the school curriculum. Charges may be made to cover the costs of board and lodging, travel, materials, books or other equipment, entrance fees, teaching and non-teaching staff and any other costs attributable to the provision of activities. If parents would like their children to take part in such activities but are unable to meet the full cost, financial assistance may be available; the Headteacher is happy to talk to parents in confidence about that possibility.
6. Parents may be asked for payment towards the cost of repairing or replacing any part of the fabric of the school or item of school property, which has been damaged or lost as a result of their child's behaviour.
7. Parents will be asked to pay for examination fees in the circumstances outlined in the Authority's policy statement.
8. The school charges for items purchased through the office, such as uniform and water bottles etc
9. The school collects payment for Metro Catering for children paying for school dinners
10. In the case of unauthorised leave the school will make parents aware of the fine payable to Wirral LA
11. Parents pay for before and after school provision. Payment is to 'Jo Joes' club.