

Charging and Remissions Policy 2026-27

1. Introduction

This policy sets out the school's approach to charging for activities and remissions in accordance with sections 449–462 of the Education Act 1996 and current Department for Education (DfE) guidance on charging for school activities. At St Paul's CofE Primary School & Nursery, we aim to ensure that all pupils have equal access to a broad and enriching curriculum, regardless of family financial circumstances.

2. Aims

- To clearly set out what charges can and cannot be made for school activities.
- To explain when charges will be waived or financial support provided.
- To ensure transparency and consistency in the handling of payments and voluntary contributions.

3. Voluntary Contributions

The school may request voluntary contributions for activities that take place during the school day or are part of the curriculum (e.g. educational visits, workshops, or theatre performances). Parents are under no obligation to contribute and children will not be excluded from an activity if their parent/carer is unable or unwilling to pay. However, if insufficient contributions are received, the school may need to cancel the activity.

4. Activities for Which No Charge Will Be Made

The school will not charge for:

- education provided during school hours, including materials, books, instruments or equipment required for that education, except where a parent wishes to own a finished product;
- education provided outside school hours where it forms part of the National Curriculum, religious education or a prescribed public examination syllabus for which the pupil is being prepared at the school;
- transport provided in connection with an educational visit where charging is prohibited by law;
- instrumental or vocal tuition where it forms an essential part of the National Curriculum or where charging is otherwise prohibited by the relevant regulations; or
- any activity for which the law requires provision to be free of charge.

5. Chargeable Activities

Where permitted by law and this policy, the school may charge for:

- optional extras taking place outside school hours that are not part of the National Curriculum, religious education or a prescribed public examination syllabus;
- instrumental or vocal tuition provided at the request of a pupil's parent, where permitted by the Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007;
- materials or ingredients where parents have indicated in advance that they wish to own the finished product;
- board and lodging on residential visits, subject to the remissions set out below;
- extended day services such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs and other optional childcare or activities;
- additional early years provision or services outside a child's funded entitlement, where charging is permitted; and
- reasonable costs arising from wilful or negligent damage to, or loss of, school property, in

accordance with the school's procedures.

Any charge for an optional extra will be based on the actual cost of providing that activity and will not include an element of subsidy for pupils whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay. Participation in a chargeable optional extra will be by parental choice.

6. Residential Visits and Remissions

For residential visits, the school may charge for board and lodging, but the charge will not exceed the actual cost. The school will not charge for education provided on a visit during school hours, or for education provided outside school hours where it forms part of the National Curriculum, religious education or a prescribed public examination syllabus for which the pupil is being prepared at the school. Where those conditions apply, the school will also not charge for associated travel that the law requires to be provided free of charge.

Parents who meet the statutory eligibility criteria for remission of board and lodging charges will receive full remission of those charges. The school will use the current DfE eligibility criteria in force at the time of the visit rather than relying on a fixed list of benefits in this policy. Parents will be informed of their right to claim remission when a relevant residential visit is proposed.

The school may also provide additional full or partial remission or financial support, at the discretion of the Headteacher, for families experiencing hardship.

7. Third-Party Providers

Some activities such as after-school clubs or peripatetic music lessons may be delivered by third-party providers. Charges for these are set by the provider and are payable directly to them.

8. Charging for SEMH Outreach Provision

As part of our commitment to supporting children beyond St Paul's, we provide access to our Nurture Farm and SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) outreach programmes for other schools.

- Where this provision is offered to pupils from other schools, we reserve the right to make charges to cover staffing, resources, materials and upkeep of the Farm.
- Charges will be agreed in advance with the commissioning school and set at a fair and transparent rate.
- The aim of this charging is to ensure that the outreach provision is sustainable and continues to benefit pupils both at St Paul's and in the wider community.
- Where appropriate, partnership agreements or service-level agreements will be drawn up with the participating school(s).

9. Equality and Inclusion

St Paul's CofE Primary School & Nursery is committed to ensuring that no pupil is disadvantaged as a result of financial hardship. We encourage any families who are concerned about affordability to speak confidentially with the Headteacher or School Business Manager.

10. Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Governing Body in line with DfE guidance and changes in legislation.

Date of Policy: August 2026

Review Date: August 2027

Policy Lead: Headteacher and School Business Manager