

St. Joseph's RC High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

Charging and Remission Policy - Pupils

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This policy was updated May 2024 by Mark Rowland, Business Manager

Presented to Governors for Agreement: June 2024

This policy will be reviewed May 2026

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PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to set out what charges can and cannot be made for activities in St Joseph's RC High School? The policy has been drawn up in accordance with Sections 449-462 of The Education Act 1996 which sets out the law regarding what charges can and cannot be made for activities in schools maintained by local authorities.

CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE NO CHARGE IS MADE

No charge will be made for:

Education in School

- Education provided wholly or mainly during school hours.
- Admission to school for children of compulsory school age.
- Activities which are part of the National Curriculum, or are part of a prescribed examination syllabus, or part of Religious Education.
- The supply of any materials, books and instruments or other equipment, needed for the programmes of study.

Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport.
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where they 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.
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit which is part of the National Curriculum.

Residential Visits

- 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.

Examination Fees

- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school or for first examination re-sit if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit at the school.

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CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE SCHOOL MAY CHARGE PARENTS/CARERS

Optional Extras

Charges may be made for other activities known as 'optional extras'. Where an optional extra is being provided, a charge may be made for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment as follows:

Education

- Activities which take place mainly or wholly out of school time if they are not part of the National Curriculum, not part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupils being prepared for at the school and not part of Religious Education.
- Materials used in practical subjects and project assignments provided parents/carers have agreed in advance that they or the pupil wish to keep the finished product eg ingredients or materials.

Music Tuition

- A termly charge agreed by the Governing Body on advice from the Gwent Music Service for students choosing music tuition and income collected directly from parents / carers by the Gwent Music Service.

Transport

- Transport that is not required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the governing body have arranged for the pupil to be provided with education.

Examination Fees

- The examination is on the set list, but the pupil was not prepared for it at the school.
- The examination is not on the set list, but the school arranges for the pupil to take it.
- A pupil fails, without good reason, to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing body or LA originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.

Board and Lodgings

- The cost of board and lodging for residential trips, even when taking place largely during school time. (Pupils whose parents/carers are in receipt of certain benefits are exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging, see page 4).

Voluntary Contributions

Although schools cannot charge for school time activities, voluntary contributions may be sought from parents/carers for activities which supplement the normal school curriculum.

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Requests to parents/carers for voluntary contributions will state that:

- there is no legal obligation to make a voluntary contribution,
- pupils will not be excluded through parents'/carers' inability or unwillingness to pay,
- pupils of parents/carer who cannot contribute will not be treated any differently, and
- where there are not enough voluntary contributions to make the activity possible and there is no way to make up the shortfall, the activity will be cancelled.

Requests made for voluntary contributions made in respect of individual pupils must not include any element of subsidy for any other pupils wishing to participate in the activity whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

The school is conscious of the fact that it can be difficult for parents/carers to make voluntary contributions for their children to take part in activities, and, where this is the case, the school would not want to disadvantage a child and would make every effort to ensure that the child can participate.

Breakages and Damage

Where a pupil's behaviour results in damage to school property or equipment, parents/carers may be asked to pay for the necessary repair or replacement. Each incident should be dealt with on its own merit and at the school's discretion.