



St Aloysius College

Charging and remissions policy

Introduction

St Aloysius is required to have a charging and remissions policy, which provides details of any optional extras or board and lodging for which it intend to charge. Without such a policy, the school is not permitted to make any charges.

We want all our pupils to have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities, both on and off site, within and outside the curriculum, regardless of their family's financial means. This policy sets out our school approach to charging and remissions, and is informed by local authority guidance. In doing this, our intention is to ensure transparency in setting charges and ensure all children are able to access all the provision on offer.

This policy does not apply to charges made and determined by other organisations offering activities and services on the school premises.

This policy considers different types of activity and determines the circumstances in which charges will be made.

If a charge is to be made for a particular type of activity, for example optional extras, parents need to know how the charge will be worked out and who might qualify for help with the cost (or even get it free). This policy provides such details.

Charging and remissions

The following provides guidance regarding the charges that the school may or may not impose.

1	Admissions	No charge will be made for admission.
2	School meals	No charge will be made for pupils entitled to free school meals.
		<i>We will charge all pupils in receipt of free school meals for any optional items that they choose to purchase which sit outside of their free school meal allowance. This charge will be at the same rate as any pupils that are not entitled to free school meals.</i>
		<i>We will charge all pupils not entitled to free school meals an amount determined by the local authority, contractor or governing body of the school, as appropriate.</i>
3	Public examinations	No charge will be made for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list and the pupil has been prepared at the school.
		<i>Where supported by school, we will not charge parents for the entry fee if the examination is on the set list, but the pupil was not prepared for it at school.</i>

		<i>Where supported by school, we will not charge parents the entry fee if the examination is not on the set list, but school has arranged for the pupil to take it</i>
		<i>We may charge parents the examination fee if a pupil fails without good reason to complete the requirements of a public examination where the school originally paid the entry fee. This will be decided by the Headteacher.</i>
4	Activities for pupils that take place during school hours ('School hours' are those when school is actually in session and do not include the break in the middle of the school day)	No charge will be made for activities provided during school hours including the supply of materials, books and equipment (with the exception of music tuition – see Section 8).
		No charge will be made for transport during school hours e.g. to PE games/activities.
		<i>A charge will be made to cover the cost of ingredients or materials where parents/guardians have confirmed in advance that they wish to own the finished product.</i>
5	Activities for pupils that take place outside school hours (non-residential)	No charge will be made for an activity that takes place outside school hours when it is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a necessary part of the curriculum b) part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school c) part of the school's basic curriculum for religious education
		<i>We may charge for any activities which sit outside the scope of a,b and c within section 5</i>
		<u>Optional extras</u> <i>We may charge for some other activities that take place outside school hours. The Headteacher will decide which activities we make a charge for. The levels of charge (including any remissions) will be set annually on the recommendation of the Headteacher and the finance committee.</i>
		<p>Where we make a charge, the total collected will not exceed the cost of providing the activity and no parent will be asked to subsidise the cost to other pupils by paying more than an amount equal to the total cost of the activity divided by the number of pupils participating.</p> <p>Costs we can legally recover are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra, this includes supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra b) non-teaching staff c) any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra d) transport to an activity outside school hours e) board and lodgings for a pupil on a residential visit which takes place outside of school hours <p>Participation in any optional extra activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges. Parental agreement is therefore a necessary pre-requisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.</p>
6	Activities that take place partly during school hours either on or off site (non-residential).	Where the majority of time spent on a non-residential activity is within school hours, we must treat the activity as if it is fully within school hours, and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 4.
		If the majority of the time spent on a non-residential activity is outside school hours, we must treat the activity as if it happens fully outside school hours, and will apply the same criteria to charging as set out in section 5.

7	Residential	Residentials are classified as being within school hours if the number of school sessions missed by the pupils is at least 50% of the number of half days spent on the trip.
		<u>Board and lodging</u> <i>We will charge pupils an amount up to the full cost of board and lodging on residentials whether it is classified as taking place within or outside school hours EXCEPT where pupils are legally entitled to remission. In such cases no charge will be made for board and lodging. (See section 11 of guidance for details of legal entitlements to remissions)</i>
		<u>Travel</u> If the residential is classified as being within school hours, no charge will be made for travel costs (legal requirement), although, a voluntary contribution may be sought. <i>Where the residential is classified as being outside school hours, a charge will be made for travel to cover the unit cost per pupil other than those entitled to remissions (but no paying pupil will be required to subsidise the cost of non-paying pupils).</i>
		<u>Activities on residential</u> If the residential is classified as being within school hours no charge can legally be made for the educational activities provided. <i>If the residential is classified as being outside school hours, a charge will be made for the educational activities provided (see section 5).</i>

8	Music tuition within school hours	No charge will be made if the music tuition is an essential part of the national curriculum or a public examination syllabus being followed by the pupil (including instrument hire, music books etc.).
		No charge will be made for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours for children in care (including instrument hire, music books etc.).
		<i>We will charge for all other instrumental and vocal tuition requested by parents and delivered by specialist tutors within school hours, whether offered to an individual or group of pupils. Charges will be determined by the Headteacher and the appropriate committee of the governing body and may vary depending on size of group, length of lesson and type of instrument. Charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff providing the tuition.</i>
		<i>Where we make a charge for instrumental and vocal tuition within school hours we will remit charges for pupils on free school meals as defined in section 11 of guidance as well as in certain other circumstances (e.g. for siblings) in order to ensure specialist music tuition is accessible and affordable for all children.</i>
9	Extended day services for pupils	We will charge families for any extended day services offered to pupils offered to children before and after school (and during school holidays), with the level of fees and any remissions to be set and reviewed regularly by the governing body, and in accordance with any requirements set by the local authority where it is subsidising the provision.
10	Damage to property and breakages	<i>We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of school property. This will be determined by the Headteacher.</i>
		<i>We may seek to recover some or all of the costs incurred due to wilful damage or breakage of property belonging to a third party where the school has been charged. This will be determined by the Headteacher.</i>
11	Remissions and concessions	We will comply with legal requirements for remissions as outlined throughout this document for those pupils defined as eligible by the school.
		<i>We may choose to subsidise, in full or part, charges for certain activities and pupils, as determined by the Governing Body, advised by the Headteacher. The circumstances in which concessions are applied will be reviewed regularly.</i>

12	Voluntary contributions	<i>We may in certain circumstances invite parents to make a voluntary contribution towards activities that are exempt from charging.</i>
		Where we do ask for voluntary contributions, we will make it clear that children of parents who choose not to contribute will not be treated differently from those who do. No pupil will be excluded from the activity if their parents do not contribute.
		If an activity cannot go ahead without sufficient voluntary contributions, this will be explained to parents when the contribution is requested. If the activity has to be cancelled due to insufficient funds, all monies received will be returned to parents.

In the event of a forthcoming visit, any parents who can prove that they are in receipt of the following benefits will be exempt from paying the cost of board and lodging:

- Universal Credit in prescribed circumstances;⁶
- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided that Working Tax Credit is not also received and the family's income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) does not exceed £16,105.
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit;

Remissions are as included within the above table. Any situations which are not covered by one of the 12 above areas will be dealt with at the discretion of the Headteacher and Governing Body