St. Ronan's PS (Newry)

Charging & Remissions Policy

October 2025

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Vision Statement

Working together in partnership to promote academic excellence through the development of the whole child in a nurturing and faith-based community

Mission Statement

We as both Governors and Staff of St. Ronan's believe the school is a vital part of the parish and wider catholic community. We are firmly committed to:

- the aims of Catholic Education
- creating a welcoming environment and educational community centred on Christ, so that His Values and Gospel message pervade the whole life of our school in our thoughts, words and deeds
- establishing a warm and caring catholic ethos especially within our pastoral care structure
- developing positive relationships at all levels in the school, with our parents and the wider school and parish community

And believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality in:

- A broad and challenging curriculum
- Innovative teaching and an investigative approach to learning
- A stimulating learning environment
- An enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- A rich, varied and up-to-date range of learning resources
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- Learning partnerships between the school, home and parish community

Charging Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the N.I Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.

2 Voluntary contributions

2.1 When organising school trips or visits which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the trip. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel a trip. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

2.2 If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the school pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

2.3 The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as 'optional extras'. This list is not exhaustive:
-visits to museums;
-sporting activities which require transport expenses;
-outdoor adventure activities;
-visits to the theatre;
-school trips;
-musical events.

3 Residential visits

3.1 If the school organises a residential visit in school time or mainly school time, which is to provide education directly related to the N.I Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education or travel expenses. However, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board and lodging. Parents who receive state benefits are exempt from payment.

4 Music tuition

4.1 All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this.

4.2 There is a charge for individual or group music tuition if this is not part of the N.I Curriculum. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons. We make a charge for these lessons. Parents in receipt of state benefits usually receive a discounted fee. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5 Swimming

5.1 The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Key Stage 2. These take place in school time and are part of the N.I Curriculum. We do make charge for this activity to cover costs. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents for their permission for their child to take part in swimming lessons.

6 After School Activities

6.1 The school offers additional after school activities. We may make a small charge for these to cover costs.

7 Transport

7.1 If children need to be transported to a venue to take part in an activity we may charge children, these charges only to cover the expenses of the trip, and not to make a profit.

All payments are made via SchoolMoney. We are a cashless school.

Reviewed: October 2025