simon marks
jewish primary school
תורה עם דרך-ארץ

Charging POLICY 2026

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

1 Introduction

1.1 For compulsory school age pupils all education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

2 Contributions for trips and other school activities

The specific requirements of the Education Act 1996 state that all such contributions are for the benefit of the school through a range of school activities:
There is no obligation to make any contribution, however the school relies on voluntary contributions for trips and other workshops throughout the school year.
Pupils at the school will not be treated differently according to whether or not their parents have made any contribution in response to the request or invitation.

There is a distinction between the term ‘charges’ which are obligatory costs and voluntary contributions.

When organising school trips or visits to enrich the curriculum, and the educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost. All contributions are voluntary. For trips, 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.

If a parent wishes their children to take part in a school 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 by using of the pupil premium in order to support the visit e.g. coach costs to keep the cost of the visit low. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

The following is a list of some additional activities, organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive:

- Visits to the museums
- Sporting activities
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Visits to or by a theatre company

- Workshops of educational benefit
- Musical events
- Transport
- Extra-curriculum support for experiential learning, e.g. Lullavim for Succot, sharing Mishloach Manot, Seder meal

All of the above contribute to the broad effectiveness of the school and benefit all pupils.

3 Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time, or mainly in school time, which is to provide education directly related to the National Curriculum, we do not make any charge for the education, however we do make a charge for the board and lodging, kosher food and transport. Account is taken of the pupils' parents' receipt of universal credits etc. The school may remit or subsidise these charges by application to voluntary organisations or charities e.g, Simon Marks Jewish Primary School Trust. This information will be provided to the school confidentially.

4 Music tuition

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

There is a charge for individual or small-group music tuition, since this is an additional curriculum activity, and not part of the National Curriculum. These individual or small-group lessons are taught by peripatetic music teachers. We make a charge for these lessons. We give parents information about additional music tuition at the start of each academic year.

5 Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for Year 3 and 4 children. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. We therefore make no charge for this activity. We inform parents when these lessons are to take place, and we ask parents to ensure their child has appropriate clothing and a towel for swimming lessons.

6 Cooking

The school buys ingredients centrally for some D&T lessons and cookery in creative links lessons. Parents are asked to cover these costs. Children take

part in these lessons whether their parents contribute or not as the school subsidises the cost for those who cannot pay.

7 Before and After School Sport and Creative Activities

The school offers additional activities as part of its commitment to the extended day. We reserve the right to make a charge for these sessions. A number of after school activities are out-sourced to organisations and charges are made for these activities.

8 Nursery

From the age of 3 all children are currently entitled to 15 hours of free nursery provision, we currently offer morning provision.
If parents wish to send their child to an afternoon session, there will be an additional fee to pay unless they have made an application and have been accepted for free whole day provision. Please speak to a member of office staff about this.

9 Lunches

This year, pupils in Reception, through to Year 6 are entitled to Universal free lunches. All other pupils need to pay a daily lunch charge. The school office has up to date lunch charges available upon request.
There are certain times in the year when adults are able to join pupils for lunches.

Costings and Fees - September 2025 – August 2026

Music tuition in blocks of 10 weeks

The fees for peripatetic tuition vary between £150-£200 for 10 sessions; this is dependent on the uptake for these lessons. We require a £50 deposit and remaining fees to be paid between week 7 and week 10. We will not book further sessions until monies owed are paid in full.

Breakfast club

The daily price for breakfast club is £2.75 per session.

Lunches

Pupil lunches are currently £3.90 a lunch
Adult lunches are £4.20
Where a debt of £40 or more is incurred then you will be required to take your child home for lunch until the debt is cleared.

Afterschool activities
These cost £5.00 a session. These are payments up front.

Nursery fees
Current Nursery fees are set at £24.00 per session. Payment is required in advance- you are pre booking your next sessions. You will need to pay for school lunches separately.

All owing payments are placed on your ParentPay account so you can log in and see what your account is owing.

Financial Hardship
We recognise that from time-to-time families may experience financial difficulties. If you are experiencing a difficult time please make an appointment to see the Headteacher explaining your circumstances. We may be in a position to postpone payments, create a payment plan for you or in exceptional hardship situations make up to a 20% reduction on some fees.