

The St Michael Steiner School Fees for 2017/2018

The school's fee structure has been reviewed this year, after a consultation period and many discussions in the College. The thinking behind the restructuring addresses several issues:

We try to develop in the children a feeling of responsibility and care for the whole community - the whole world in fact - and a wish to help others who are less fortunate. We believe we should also model that in the way we run and fund the school. Our ethos is not exclusive, and a school community made up of people with a wide range of incomes creates a healthier environment for the children. It is in everyone's interests that we make it possible for people who don't have so much money to come to the school.

We believe that fees should be charged per family, because having more children does not mean that parents are able to contribute more, but having more children in the school benefits everyone, and we want to make it possible for large families to send all of their children to the school. We have found that children who have siblings in other schools often think they have been sent to our school because there is something wrong with them, and this affects their self-esteem and their attitude to the school, and also perpetuates the idea some people have that ours is a special school for children with learning difficulties.

We also recognise that parents with small children have less 'earning power' than those with older children, and this has to be taken into account. Apart from this, there are no sound reasons for charging different fees in each class as we do under the current system; it does not cost more to educate a child in Class 4 than it does a child in Class 2, for example.

Perhaps the most important concern for us is to dispel the idea that we are selling education. Our aim is to offer the best possible education, based on a particular understanding of child development. To that end, we are committed to putting in the necessary work to make this vision a reality; we are not paid according to the number of hours or lessons we teach or the number of years' experience we have. In order that we can offer this to you, we need enough money to live while we devote ourselves to this task.

In order to offer the best possible education, we must continue to attract the best teachers, and we will not be able to do that unless we can pay them a proper salary. Living costs in London are higher than in other parts of the country, and staffing costs represent more than half of our annual budget. We also need to be able to develop and maintain the school building, grounds and facilities.

With all of these things in mind, what we are introducing at this point is a transitional plan that will lead us eventually to the point where we can charge a flat fee per family, regardless of the number of children they have. In order to get there, we will need to have more families in the school, and we hope this transitional structure will help.

Finally, You will see in the structure that there are two 'Family Fee' rates. We hope very much that people who can afford to will choose to pay the higher rate. This will not be means tested, and is paid entirely at each family's discretion.

The new fees will be applied from September 2017. A revised fee policy, which will also apply from September, will be sent out with invoices for 2017/2018.

Fee Assistance is available on application, according to the school's policy, which is in the Parents' handbook and on the school website.

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The fee per family is composed of 3 parts:

1. A flat fee, payable by each family (regardless of class and part time/full time status)
2. A fee per child for first two children in the family, regardless of class*
3. A fee for operational costs and materials per child, according to class*

These 3 parts added together comes to what will be payable for each family.

**These two elements are charged pro-rata for part-time Kindergarten children*

Breakdown of annual fees for 2017/2018

Flat fee, payable per family:	£3,100(lower rate) £9,500(full rate)♦
Fee per child for first and second child in the family:	£3,100
Fee per child for third (+) child in the family:*	£0
Operational and Materials charge per child:	Kindergarten: £750
	Classes 1 - 4: £2,500
	Classes 5 - 8: £3,500
	Classes 9 - 12: £4,500

♦There are two 'Family Fee' rates. This is not means tested, and its payment is entirely at each family's discretion. If parents would like to contribute more than the reduced rate, but can't quite afford the full rate, extra contributions of any amount will be gratefully received.

* This rate will apply only when all of the family's school age children are in the school.

Totals	Per term	Per year
Family Fee payable per family:		
Full Rate	£3,167	£9,500
Reduced Rate	£1,034	£3,100
Fee + Operational and Materials charge payable per child:		
Class 9 -12 oldest/only child	£2,534	£7,600
Class 9 -12 1st younger sibling	£2,534	£7,600
Class 9 - 12 3rd/4th etc. sibling	£1,500	£4,500
Class 5 - 8 oldest/only child	£2,200	£6,600
Class 5 - 8 1st younger sibling	£2,200	£6,600
Class 5 - 8 3rd/4th etc. sibling	£1,167	£3,500
Class 1 - 4 oldest/only child	£1,867	£5,600
Class 1 - 4 1st younger sibling	£1,867	£5,600
Class 1 - 4 3rd/4th etc. sibling	£834	£2,500
Full Time Kindergarten oldest/only child*	£1,284	£3,850
Full Time Kindergarten 1st younger sibling*	£1,284	£3,850
Full Time Kindergarten 3rd/4th etc. sibling*	£250	£750
Afternoon Care for Kindergarten children £17 per session. Parent & Child/Baby groups £6 per family per session (drop in)/£30 per half term (booked)		
* Part Time Kindergarten fees are calculated individually on a pro rata basis		

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Examples:

1. A family with one child in Class 2 and another in Kindergarten would pay:

Family Fee + Class 1 - 4 oldest/only child fee + Full Time Kindergarten 1st younger sibling fee, i.e. either:

£3,100 + £5,600 + £3,850 Total: £12,550

or, if they chose to pay the higher Family Fee:

£9,500 + £5,600 + £3,850 Total: £18,950

2. A family with one child in Class 12 would pay:

Family Fee + Class 9 -12 oldest/only child fee, i.e. either:

£3,100 + £7,600 Total: £10,700

or, if they chose to pay the higher Family Fee:

£9,500 + £7,600 Total: £17,100

3. A family with one child in Class 4, one in Class 8 and another in Class 10 would pay:

Family Fee + Class 9 -12 oldest/only child fee + Class 5 - 8 1st younger sibling fee + Class 1 - 4 3rd/4th etc. sibling fee, i.e. either:

£3,100 + £7,600 + £6,600 + £2,500 Total: £19,800

or, if they chose to pay the higher Family Fee:

£9,500 + £7,600 + £6,600 + £2,500 Total: £26,200

4. A family with one child in Kindergarten attending 3 days a week would pay:

Family Fee + 60% of Full Time Kindergarten oldest/only child fee, i.e. either:

£3,100 + £2,310 Total: £5,410

or, if they chose to pay the higher Family Fee:

£9,500 + £2,310 Total: £11,810

5. A family with one child in Kindergarten full time would pay:

Family Fee + Full Time Kindergarten oldest/only child fee, i.e. either:

£3,100 + £3,850 Total: £6,950

or, if they chose to pay the higher Family Fee:

£9,500 + £2,310 Total: £13,350