

At Saint Patrick's we want to make sure that all children are able to make the most of the school day and that no child misses out on anything. We are delighted that so many families took the time to complete our survey which enables us to understand better whether school costs are causing any concerns for our families and children and see whether there is anything more that we can do to help out.

Uniform:

76% of you were aware of how the school can support you with school uniform. Recently, we have changed suppliers to Michael Hope, which is where all uniform can be purchased from. However, as per our uniform policy, the following items can be brought from any supermarket or outlet which may reduce the cost:

What our Children Wear to School

Pupils should wear –

- a white shirt or blouse
- Plain mid grey, tailored trousers (not fitted, fashion, jersey, embellished etc.)
- Plain mid grey, tailored shorts (option for summer months)
- Mid grey skirt or culottes (of a modest length; no higher than just above the knee)
- Mid grey pinafore dress
- Royal / Light blue gingham dress (option for warmer months)
- Grey or navy woollen tights
- Grey or white socks
- formal, flat and securely fitting black shoes
- For P.E. or other sporting activities, pupils should wear –
- White polo shirt or white T-shirt
- Navy shorts or 'skort' o Daps or plain black or white trainers
- Navy or black tracksuit
- Navy or black sweatshirt
- An additional pair of socks (to change into if wearing tights)



For any of these items listed above, you can often find these at the Chippenham Uniform exchange;

“We are a not-for-profit community interest organisation helping families in Chippenham and the surrounding area with the cost of school uniform. Our aim is to create a single unified scheme for reusing preloved items of school uniform in and around Chippenham, Wiltshire. We enable families to dispose of outgrown school uniform ethically for the benefit of the community instead of throwing it away into landfill.

Families can pass on to us any items of school uniform no longer needed which can then be accessed at very low cost or provided for free to families who find themselves in financial hardship.

The scheme is available to all families with school-aged children who live or go to school in Chippenham or the surrounding towns & villages”

<https://chippenhamuniformexchange.org.uk/>

However, our wonderful PTFA also take uniform donations and wash, and package everything. This is then stocked in the uniform cupboard and there is a list of everything on the door, so parents can take what they need and cross it off for an anonymous donation (everything is labelled).

The uniform cupboard is open every Friday from 3pm, but parents can also email the PTFA direct if they need anything specific or outside of these times, and we can leave this in reception for collection.

The PTFA also do bundles made up for new starters thought the year as and when needed.

Lunches and Eating at School

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school dinner daily. If used each day, **this can save over £480 per child**, per year.

In Key Stage Two, those in receipt of Pupil Premium are also entitled to Free School Meals. Not only do those children who are in receipt of Pupil Premium access free school meals daily, but the school will also receive funding per pupil to be spent on:



- Supporting high-quality teaching, such as staff professional development
- Providing targeted academic support, such as tutoring
- Tackling non-academic barriers to academic success, such as difficulties with attendance, behaviour, and social and emotional wellbeing.

We understand that there are some people who could be in receipt of Pupil Premium, but prefer not to claim this.

We would encourage you to talk to either Mrs Courtney, Mrs Minty or the School Office if you would like to discuss this further, we will of course deal with this discreetly.

You can find further information on our website about who is eligible to apply. <https://www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk/page/?title=School+Meals+Bookings+%26amp%3B+Free+Meals+Application&pid=97>



We also work closely with our local food bank and we refer several families here. Again, if you would like to speak about this in confidence, please do contact Mrs Courtney or Mrs Minty.

Materials for Learning in Class and at Home

All materials for learning in class are supplied by the school. Children may choose to bring in their own equipment but this is not necessary. We also ask that large pencil cases/equipment which can cause distraction are not brought in.

In order to support home/school communication and to lessen the impact on our environment, all home learning is set on 'Tapestry' and 'Google Classrooms' and is designed to need minimal equipment, usually just a pencil and paper at most. If internet access or computing devices are an issue then please inform your class teacher who can organise for a hard copy to be sent home.

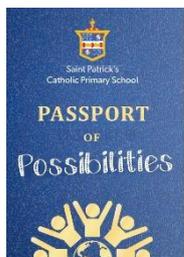
Subject Costs

As per above, all costs for your children participating in any subject are covered by the school except for PE where the parent would provide the uniform. Please see previous paragraph relating to uniform for more support with this.

Trips and Enrichment

As the cost of living continues to rise, we are also ensuring that when we book school trips we do so with this in mind. We do not want children to miss out on these important experiences, therefore, much research goes into these. We always obtain a variety of quotes for travel, ensure that entry prices/ workshops are low cost whilst still ensuring an educational and enjoyable experience for all.

Each class will go on one 'class trip' per year. Year 5 and Year 6 both go on residential trips. We are able to subsidise trips for those who feel they need this support. Please do contact Mrs Courtney or Mrs Minty if you feel you would need support for any enrichment opportunities.



We also ensure that children experiences engaging and experiences within the school year at no cost to the children. Each child now has a 'Saint Patrick's Passport of Possibilities' which they are presented with when they start school. Within this they can track and reflect on the many experiences they have had with us. For example; pilgrimages, attending art exhibitions to name but a few!

We have a range of themed weeks and days across the school, the most recent being our 'Change and Adapt' Science week where the children were incredibly lucky to have a variety of visiting experts to educate and inspire us:

- Dr. Laura Cadman from UK Research and Innovation shared robotic clothing and SMART medicine of the future
- Mr Matt Lomax spoke to us about renewable energies, (in particular solar farms) and the history of the car
- Mr Andy Moore from Colchester Zoo shared a wide range of animal adaptations including spiky bits, ears, tails and feet

We also ran a whole-school data collection project - we measured every child to find the average height pupil in each class, and then found the average height adult in the school. We made cardboard cutouts and compared the growth and change as we grow older.



No child should miss out on any of the opportunities the school provides due to financial circumstances. Therefore, when PTFA events are held such as discos and bazaars, costs can be waived at the Headteacher's discretion. For all children in receipt of pupil premium, they will be given a booklet of tokens for the bazaar with no payment needed if this is a difficulty for the family.

Travel

We are lucky enough to take our children from a wide-reaching area. We have many children who walk and scoot to school, as well as those who need to come by car. Although restrictions have changed in the local car parks recently, we have worked with the council to provide permits for our families in the High Street and Co-op car parks. These permits allow you to park for free when collecting the children between 8:30am and 9:05 am and 2:55pm- 3:30pm.

Clubs and Activities

This year we have been delighted to be able to offer a range of after school clubs. All of these have been priced considerably, and those in receipt of Pupil Premium are able to access these at a subsidised cost.

After School Clubs 2024-2025	Year Groups	Cost
Term 1		
Multi-sports	1,2,3	£33.90 for 6 weeks (£5.65 a session)
Football Club	4,5,6	£33.90 for 6 weeks (£5.65 a session)
Term 2		
Multi-sports	Reception	£28.25 for 5 weeks (£5.65 a session)
Tag Rugby	4,5,6	£28.25 for 5 weeks (£5.65 a session)
Term 3		
Multi-sports	Reception	£22.60 for 4 weeks (£5.65 a session)
Multi-sports	1,2,3	£28.25 for 5 weeks (£5.65 a session)
Multi-sports	4,5,6	£28.25 for 5 weeks (£5.65 a session)
Term 4		
Netball	Reception and KS1	£28.25 for 5 weeks (£5.65 a session)
Netball	KS2	£28.25 for 5 weeks (£5.65 a session)
Term 5		
Team Sports	Reception and KS1	£28.25 for 5 weeks (£5.95 a session)
Team Sports	KS2	£28.25 for 5 weeks (£5.95 a session)
Term 6		
Racquet Club	Reception and KS1	£33.70 for 6 weeks (£5.95 a session)
Racquet Club	KS2	£33.70 for 6 weeks (£5.95 a session)
Gardening Club	KS1	£ for 4 weeks (a session)

Thank you for taking the time to read our response to the survey. We hope this has been useful and informative for all families. Going forwards we feel it would be useful to create a 'projected costs' document for the year ahead. The aim of this would be to give families a rough guide of costs in each term which would enable for budgeting if necessary. We look forward to sharing this with you in the near future!

