



STUDENT CHARGES POLICY

Rationale:

- The Education & Training Reform Act 2006 empowers school councils to charge parents for goods and services used in the course of instruction of their children, as well as to raise funds. As the quality and variety of educational programs offered by our school are enhanced by doing so, our School Council requests payment from parents for certain student materials and services charges. These are further set out in the DEECD Parent Payment in Schools Policy 2008.

Aims:

- To provide high quality learning opportunities for all students, by supplementing limited government funds with approved financial contributions and payments from parents.

Implementation:

- School Council supplements Department of Education funds by requesting payments from parents for the following items:-
 - The Stationery and Requisites component covers the cost of all books, stationery, photocopied activities and materials supplied to your child throughout the year. In addition to the Stationery supplied to children there are also Shared Materials that we purchase in bulk for use by children in their classrooms. This includes the variety of art and craft type materials children use - a wide range of coloured papers, cardboard, glues, paint, marking pens and other construction materials used for classroom lessons and project presentation. Another aspect of the Shared Materials is that of photocopied materials, use of shared texts, worksheets, and computer print outs.
 - **The Health and Sport Activities** component covers the cost of all Swimming Programs, gymnastics, bus travel and fees for Athletics and Interschool Sports, Hoop time, Tag Rugby, Basketball and all other health education costs.
 - **The Major Excursions/Incursion** component covers the cost of all major excursions for each class and may include but is not limited to Melbourne Zoo, Jirrahlinga, Fairy Park, Roaming Reptiles, Adventure Park, Sovereign Hill, Science Works, Post Office, Marine Discovery Centre, Grade 1 dinner - Grade 1 and Grade 2, Dharnya Centre, VELS and theme related excursions – Grades 3 - 6.
 - **The Cultural Activities** component covers the entry costs to all visiting performers throughout the year, LOTE Cultural Day and Music and Arts Performances.
 - **The Special Activities and Events** component covers various Special Day Events, Reading Eggs, Mathletics, End of Year Christmas Parties/Activities and Grade 6 Graduation.
 - **The ICT 1:1 iPad Initiative** – Our one-to-one initiative which will provide individual iPads for all students in Grades 4, 5 and 6. More information will be forwarded to all families at a later date.

- **OPTIONAL EXTRAS** – which are **offered** on a user-pays basis and which parents and guardians may choose whether their child accesses or participates in e.g. extra curricular programs or activities such as school based performances, productions or events, camps, Special Religious Instruction (if sponsorship is not obtained) and Grade 6 jumpers.
- Parents will be made aware of the costs associated with all payments and voluntary contributions by December of the previous year, along with a recommended payments schedule.
- The payments schedule will include itemised details relating to all payments, essential payment dates, options to make payments by instalments, clear definitions of the category of any payments ie: Essential, Optional or Voluntary), and advice to parents to contact the principal if they require support or additional information.
- All payments and non-payments will be strictly confidential. The public identification of students or their parents where payments have or have not been received will not occur.
- All costs and processes associated with parent payments and voluntary contributions will be reasonable, will be defensible in relation to DEECD requirements, and will be within the expectations of the school community.
- As with all parent payments to the school, Council will provide opportunities for all parents experiencing financial difficulties to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the Principal or Business Manager.
- Statements will be issued once a term and Invoices for unpaid **Essential Items and Optional Extras** to be sent to Parents at least once a term if required.
- Unpaid **Essential Items** payments will not affect the delivery of the standard curriculum to the student. However non payment may compromise a student’s ability to be involved in Activities which are associated with, but not part of standard curriculum activity in the future
- Unpaid **Optional Extras** will result in the student’s inability to attend the excursion/incursion/camp/activity. However every means possible will be explored to enable every student to participate.
- No collectors of any type, including debt collectors, will be used to obtain funds from parents or students.
- The principal will ensure that all staff are aware of this policy and adhere to it.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. School Council will review the level and purpose of parent payments and voluntary contributions annually and in doing so will be consistent with any advice or instruction received from DEECD.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

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