

PARENT PAYMENTS

POLICY

Rationale:

- The quality and variety of educational programs offered by our school are enhanced if departmental funds are supplemented by parent contributions made by parents and guardians.

Aims:

- To provide high quality learning opportunities that cater for the needs of all students.
- To ensure that all elements of our practice comply with DET policies and that staff are aware of the policy

Implementation:

- There are three categories of parent payments – essential educational items, optional items and voluntary financial contributions.
 - Essential Educational items are items which parents/guardians pay the school to provide or may provide themselves, if appropriate. These items are essential to support instruction in the standard curriculum program.
 - Optional items are items provided in addition to the standard curriculum program, and are offered to all students. They are provided on a user-pays basis and if parents/guardians choose to access them for students, they will be required to pay for them.
 - Voluntary contributions – parents can be invited to make a donation to the school to support specific programs or as a general financial contribution. Students of parents who have not paid voluntary contributions will not be treated differently from those who have
- School council will make clear distinctions between parent contributions and those materials which parents are required to pay, so that parents are not confused regarding the nature of the contributions.
- School council requests for parent contributions will be kept to a reasonable level and within expectations of the school community.
- School Council will provide all parents with information detailing the purposes for which parent contributions are being collected.
- 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, with the support of the Student Wellbeing Coordinator. Contact can be made by phone, email or in person. All requests for assistance will be handled discreetly and confidentially.
- All available family support options (e.g. second hand books and uniform), CSEF, State Schools Relief and other community supports will be communicated to parents who may be experiencing financial difficulty
- Parents will be provided with early notice of payment requests.
- Invoices for unpaid essential education items or optional items accepted by parents will be generated and distributed on a regular basis, but not more than once a month.
- Only the initial invitation for voluntary financial contributions and one reminder notice per year will be sent to all parents/guardians.
- Receipts are issued to parents immediately upon payment and receipted on CASES 21.
- Parents can raise any issues or make general inquiries about charges at any time by contacting the Business Manager or Principal.
- This policy will be displayed on the school's website and distributed to parents annually with parent payment requests
- School Council will monitor the implementation of this policy annually, taking into account transparency of process, engagement with parents, how and when it will be reported back to the school community and the timing and processes of review.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle. School Council will review the level and purpose of parent contributions annually.

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

2016