



Policy: **PARENT PAYMENT POLICY**

Approved at School Council Meeting: 2016

Review: 2018

1. BACKGROUND

Under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006, School Councils may request payments from parents for student materials and services charges, and for voluntary financial contributions. The Act also grants School Councils the power to charge fees for goods and services to support the delivery of free instruction and to raise funds for special building/grounds projects. Free instruction includes learning and teaching, instructional supports, materials and resources, administration and facilities required to provide the standard curriculum program. The standard curriculum program includes core learning and teaching activities associated with the Australian Curriculum (AUSVELS).

2. PURPOSE

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

3. PRINCIPLES

After considering the expectations of our wider community, the Shepparton East Primary School Council will ensure that:

- Fees and contributions are kept to a minimum and are subject to the 'free instruction' provision to ensure charges will not exceed the cost of providing the relevant materials or services to our students
- All students have access to the standard curriculum program
- No student will be treated differently or denied access to the standard curriculum program on the basis of payments not being made for educational items and services
- The Fee structure will be indexed to take in CPI and the Junior and Senior levels of the school

There are three areas for which parents may reasonably be requested to make a payment or contribution:

- Essential educational items which parents and guardians are required to provide or pay the school to provide for their child (for example stationery, text books and school uniforms where required)
- Optional educational items which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents and guardians may choose whether their child accesses or participates in (for example cultural performances or extra curricular programs or activities)
- Voluntary financial contributions which parents and guardians may be invited to donate to the school

4. IMPLEMENTATION

- Parents will be made aware of the costs associated with all required payments and voluntary contributions during Term 4 in the previous year and at the time of enrolment for new students entering the school.
- 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 Department of Education and Training 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.
- Unpaid **Essential Items** payments will not result in any detriment by the school to the student or family.
- Unpaid **Optional Extras** payments may compromise a student's ability to be involved in the optional activity either current or within the future.
- Unpaid **Voluntary Financial Contributions** do not constitute a non-payment and will not result in any detriment by the school to the student or family.
- 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 and that all parents have access to this school level policy.