

# **SCHOOL POLICY**

## **CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES**

### **The Legal Position**

In the public school system the State Government through the Department of Education and Training provides placement at educational facilities for all students who choose to attend Government schools.

The Department also pays for the wages of all teaching and non-teaching positions plus costs such as repairs, maintenance and utilities. Government does not provide for many goods and services which students use and it is reasonable for parents to meet these costs.

### **Where do Contributions and Charges go?**

Some examples include:

Ingredients in home economics, transport, photographic equipment and supplies, art materials, timber, metals, and consumable tools, external instructors, sporting equipment, text book, software, licences etc.

### **How much can be charged?**

For Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 the maximum voluntary contributions a school may charge is currently fixed at \$235, however additional compulsory charges above that figure can be requested for consumables and additional resources.

For Years 11 and 12 there are no maximum charges set by the State Government. Schools endeavour to set their own charges for these years and such charges are compulsory. The school can also request a 50% confirmation charge for these years.

### **Who should pay?**

Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected contributions and charges, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the contributions and charges. Parents who choose the more expensive option subjects need to meet the costs as provided during the subject selection process. All would agree that it is unfair for those parents who meet their financial commitments to be seen to subsidise the education of those students whose parents choose not to pay their contributions and charges. This school is committed to an even-handed and responsible approach that all parents should make contributions towards their children's education.

### **A compassionate view**

This school is only too aware that the payment of school contributions and charges can be a burden for some families. Part payments, deferred payments, credit card debits are all available to support parents experiencing difficulties. In some cases of financial hardship the Principal will consider full or partial waiver of fees, however we do need to talk to parents about this. Ignoring accounts and reminders is unhelpful to all parties. The school is also keen to assist parents in selecting options that they can afford. To this end subject charges will always be provided to parents prior to selection of subjects.

If parents are having difficulty paying fees, please complete the form on the School Website and Arlene Thomas, our Manager – Corporate Services will contact you to discuss possible payment options.

### **Payment options**

The school makes provision for the following payment options:

- Payment via the School website
- Full payment by cash or credit card
- Payments by instalments - cash or credit card

### **Collecting Contributions and Charges**

The school will take a positive approach to collecting contributions from parents of Years 7 to 10. In particular, the school will highlight the benefits to students if all parents meet their contributions. With respect to charges for Years 7 to 12 the school will actively seek full payment of charges.

School Board, in support of this process, has endorsed the following actions:

- Regular accounts sent home to parents.
- Parents who refuse to communicate with the school and have made no effort to pay fees will be referred to our debt collection agency as permitted in the regulations.
- Students whose family has a history of non-payment will be refused enrolment in high cost subjects.
- Year 11 and 12 high cost subjects may require a 50% confirmation charge prior to enrolment.
- Sanctions on extra curricula activities may be imposed at the discretion of the Principal. This could include camps, school socials and sporting activities.