

Flemington Primary School

Parent Payments Policy November 2007

Purpose

This policy provides the framework regarding parent payments at Flemington Primary School.

This policy is based on *The Education & Training Reform Act 2006* which ensure the provision of free instruction in the standard curriculum program and empowers school councils to charge for goods and services used in the course of instruction and to raise other funds.

It is also based on the **Department of Education & Early Childhood Development Parent Payments in Victorian Government Schools Policy 2007** which details the types of payments which may be requested from parents.

Policy Statement

While all schools are funded by the **Department of Education & Early Childhood Development** through the **Student Resource Package** and various other grants, this funding covers the standard curriculum and associated equipment, some operating costs and salaries. It does not cover all costs associated with the provision of the curriculum at Flemington Primary School. This policy clarifies the types of parent payments which will be requested.

Implementation

1. Parents and guardians will be informed of the recommended payments in mid November each year to allow sufficient planning time for payment at the commencement of the following school year.
2. The notice of Voluntary Contributions, Fees & Levies will include a variety of methods of payment.
3. Parents in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance will be informed of the timing of this payment and encouraged to use this payment for Voluntary Contributions, Fees & Levies.
4. All payment details will remain confidential.
5. Invoices for unpaid essential education items will be distributed on a monthly basis.

Categories of parent payments

1. **Essential**
 - ❖ Booklists – parents may choose to use the school supplier or to purchase listed items from their own supplier.
 - ❖ Essential materials for teaching and learning which includes materials used in the classroom, art materials, music resources, computer resources, Internet access and sporting equipment
 - ❖ Payments for excursions and incursions
 - ❖ Camps
 - ❖ Additional extras – these materials are those provided in addition to the standard curriculum and are offered to all students.
2. **Optional extras**

- ❖ Extra curricular programs such as after school sporting programs, Religious Education, Chess, Art extension, GATEWAYS..
- ❖ Outside School Hours Care Program. This is operated by School Council and is an individual entity operating on a user pays basis.
- ❖ Instrumental Music Program. This is operated by School Council and is an individual entity operating on a user pays basis.

3. **Voluntary contributions.**

- ❖ These funds provide the purchase of additional computers and printers, playground equipment, music instruments, library & classroom reading materials, furniture and classroom resources.
- ❖ Contributions to the upkeep of the school grounds through the Grounds Levy.
- ❖ Contributions to the schools' tax deductible Building Fund and Library Fund.

Support options

Where parents have difficulty in making payments, a range of support options will be discussed. Payment options are available as are second hand uniforms.

The Victorian Government also provides:

- ❖ The **Education Maintenance Allowance** for low income families.
- ❖ The School Start Bonus to parents of students starting Prep and Year 7
- ❖ Access to the State Schools Relief Committee for uniforms

Evaluation

As this is a new policy, it will be reviewed in twelve months and then on the usual three year cycle unless there are regulation changes.

Definitions

Essential items – these are items which parents or guardians are required to provide or pay the school to provide for their child and include stationery, text books and uniforms.

Optional extras – these are offered on a user pays basis and parents or guardians may choose whether their child accesses or participates. At Flemington Primary School this includes Instrumental Music, Religious Education and outside school hours sporting programs.

Voluntary contributions – parents are invited to donate to the school for items not covered by the Student Resource Package, Grounds Levy, Building Fund & Library Fund.

References

The Education & Training Reform Act 2006
 Parent Payments in Victorian Government Schools 2007
 The Schools of the Future Reference Guide

Ratified by School Council 12/11/2007
 Review September 2010