

PARENT PAYMENT POLICY

Rationale

School Councils are able to request payments or contributions for education items and services from parents and guardians for students in Victorian government schools in the three categories – essential education items, optional education items and voluntary financial contributions.

Eltham Primary School has spent considerable time selecting the most appropriate requisites to meet the needs of our children. The book packs contain high quality materials at a competitive price due to our ability to bulk order.

Parents and guardians also have the option of purchasing equivalent materials from other sources. If parents and guardians choose to provide equivalent materials, this should be done in consultation with the school, as items should meet the specifications provided by the school. There may also be certain items that may only be provided by the school.

No student will be treated differently, denied access or refused instruction to the standard curriculum program for not making a payment or voluntary contribution.

Implementation

Parent Payment Categories

Essential education items are those items or services that are essential to support the course of instructions in the standard curriculum program. Parents and guardians may choose to either provide or pay the school to provide.

These items include:

- Materials that the student takes possession of, including text books and student stationery;
- Materials for learning and teaching where the student consumes or takes possession of the finished articles
- Transport and entrance for camps and excursions which all students are expected to attend.

Optional education items (or non-essential materials and services) are those that are provided in addition to the standard curriculum program, and which are offered to all students. These optional extras are provided on a user-pay basis and if parents and guardians choose to access them for students, they will be required to pay for them.

These include:

- Student computer printing for personal use
- Internet access for recreational or non-school use;
- Extra-curricular programs or activities e.g. instrumental music, dance classes;
- School-based performances, productions and events; and
- School magazines, newsletters, class photographs

Voluntary financial contributions

Parents and guardians are invited to make donations for items and services to the school, for example for grounds maintenance or library restocking or refurbishing.

Vol 1.1 references:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/pages/parentpayments.aspx

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.