



## Irymple South Primary School **Parent Payment Policy**

The Education and Training Reform Act (2006) provides free instruction in the standard curriculum program to all students in Government schools. The Act also empowers school councils to charge fees to parents for goods and services provided by the school to a child.

Free instruction is the teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with the construction of the standard curriculum program, including reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.

***Parent contribution, in all forms, assists Irymple South PS to provide an enriched learning and teaching program for every student and is highly valued by our school community. The commitment from parents to contribute benefits students and results in improved achievement outcomes, wellbeing and engagement in learning. At Irymple South, we design and develop learning and teaching programs drawing on the best educational knowledge and practices and strive to offer broad and enriched opportunities to students that are beyond what is required in the standard curriculum.***

ISPS ensures that parent payment practices are consistent, transparent and ensure that all children have access to the standard curriculum.

Payment is requested in the following categories:

### **Essential student learning Items:**

The items, activities or services that are essential to student learning of the standard curriculum at Irymple South PS are as follows:

A4 or A3 Whiteboard, Whiteboard markers, exercise books, scrap books, plastic storage folders, plastic pocket books, pencils, pens, markers, coloured pencils, erasers, sharpeners, scissors, rulers, tape & staplers, photocopy paper, Art materials, Cooking materials, Science materials,

Incursions as part of the curriculum or year level,

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Apps for iPad, headphones

Book bag, Calico Money bag, Diaries, Book Boxes

All of the items in the essential payment list have been sourced from multiple suppliers at the most cost effective rate to ensure minimal cost to families.

### **Parent Payment Charges for Essential Learning Items for 2020: \$225 per child**

This fee of \$225 will cover all aspects of education with the exclusion of the camp program, the BYOD iPad program and donations that families may choose to make.

### **Optional Items:**

These items, activities or services are optional and additional to the standard curriculum.

ICT levy

ICT levy for students not opting into BYOD program: \$75

### **Voluntary Financial Contributions:**

Parents are invited to make a voluntary contribution to support our ground/building priorities in 2019.



## Payment Arrangements and Methods

The following payment methods are available:

1. Cash or cheque
2. Direct Deposit : Irymple South Primary School  
BSB: 063520 (Commonwealth Bank)  
Acc No: 10104523 (please use your child's surname as reference)
3. EFTPOS – available at the front office

The following Payment Arrangements are available:

1. Pay in full by March 27<sup>th</sup> 2020
2. Payments may be paid in instalments (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) beginning at the start of the year
3. Table of charges is outlined in the newsletter in the last 6 weeks of the year
4. Invoices cannot be generated more than monthly (excluding health card recipients)

If paying in online instalments please ensure your child's surname is included in the reference line.

Sharon Welsh, Business Manager can be contacted at the school to discuss and arrange payment options.

## Family Support Options

The principal and school council exercise sensitivity to the differing financial circumstances of students and their families when considering parent payment fees and the 1:1 program.

Support for families experiencing financial difficulty can be accessed through:

The **Camps, Sports and Excursion** fund provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply and a Special Consideration eligibility category exists.

**State Schools' Relief** may cover the cost of new uniforms, shoes, books and more for disadvantaged students. Parents or Carers must make an appointment with the principal to discuss as requests can only be made from principals, assistant-principals or welfare workers.

Consideration to families experiencing financial hardship regarding payment arrangements can be discussed with the principal, Robyn Brooks. Please contact the school on 50 245345, to make a time to discuss payment arrangements, email Robyn at [brooks.robyn.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:brooks.robyn.a@edumail.vic.gov.au) or make a time to meet personally.

## Communicating with Parents

This policy, including the Understanding Parent Payment Categories flyer will be communicated through the school newsletter, the school website at least 6 weeks before the end of the previous school year.

Parents are encouraged to raise issues, make general inquiries about charges and contact the principal if there are any concerns or complaints.

## Monitoring and Review of the Implementation of the Policy

It is the responsibility of the school council to monitor the implementation of the policy, identify the factors/measures to be taken into account, such as transparency of processes and engagement with parents and how/when it is reported back to the school community, and timing and processes of review.

**Date and approval by School Council: September 20<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**This policy will be reviewed: Term 3, 2020.**

# Understanding Parent Payment Categories

## Schools

### What does the legislation say?

The Education and Training Reform Act (2006) provides for free instruction in the standard curriculum program to all students in government schools. The Act also empowers school councils to charge fees to parents for goods and services provided by the school to a child.

In the Act, a 'Parent' includes a guardian and every person who has parental responsibility for a child including parental responsibility under the Commonwealth Family Law Act 1975 and any person with whom a child normally or regularly resides.

### What do schools pay for as part of 'free instruction'?



Free instruction is the teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with the instruction of the standard curriculum program, including reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.

The standard curriculum for Years F-10 means implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

The standard curriculum for senior secondary schools means a program that enables a student to be awarded a VCE or VCAL qualification.

### What principles govern parent payment practice?

Educational Value | Access, Equity & Inclusion | Affordability

Engagement & Support | Respect & Confidentiality | Transparency & Accountability

## Parents

### What may parents be asked to pay for?

#### Schools can request payment for Essential Student Learning Items



These are items, activities or services that the school deems **essential** to student learning of the standard curriculum.

Where practical and appropriate, parents may choose to purchase items through the school or provide their own.

These may also be either:

#### Items the student takes temporary or permanent possession of

- e.g.
- textbooks, activity books, exercise books
  - stationery, book bags
  - student ID cards, locks
  - cooking ingredients students will consume
  - materials for final products that students take home (technology projects, build-your-own kits, dioramas)
  - Picture Exchange Communication Systems

#### Activities associated with instruction that all students are expected to attend

i.e. travel, entry fees or accommodation

- e.g.
- excursions
  - incursions
  - school sports
  - work placements



Parents can be asked to pay for items, activities and services in the three Parent Payment Categories: Essential Student Learning Items, Optional Items and Voluntary Financial Contributions.

Schools determine how items, activities and services are classified within these categories based on the learning and teaching program of their school.

#### Schools can request payment for Optional Items

These are items, activities or services that are **optional** and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum.

Students may access these on a user-pays basis.

These may be either:

#### Items the student purchases or hires

- e.g.
- school magazines, class photos
  - functions, formals, graduation dinners
  - materials for extra curricular programs
  - student accident insurance

#### Activities the student purchases

- e.g.
- fees for extra curricular programs or activities, such as instrumental music tuition
  - fees for guest speakers
  - camps, excursions, incursions, sports
  - entry fees for school run performances

#### Items and/or materials that are more expensive than required to meet the standard curriculum

- e.g.
- use of silver in metal work instead of copper
  - supplementary exam revision guides

Support for families experiencing hardship is available at every school and each school has a parent payment contact person. See your school's policy for more information.  
For more information on Parent Payments and Personal Devices, visit the DET website at: [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

Schools can invite **Voluntary Financial Contributions** for



- e.g.
- Building or Library fund (Tax deductible)
  - Voluntary contributions for a specific purpose, such as equipment, materials, services.
  - General voluntary contributions