



OPTIONAL EDUCATION ITEMS AND VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS 2019



Dear Parents/Guardians,

September 2018

The *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* provides that instruction in the standard curriculum program is delivered free to all students in Victorian Government schools – this is referred to as ‘free instruction’. 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.

According to the legislation, in addition to the Essential Education Items **that all parents are expected to pay**, (see the attached Parent Payment Policy as legislated by D.E.T.), the two other areas for which parents may reasonably be requested to make a payment or contribution are Optional Education Items and Voluntary Financial Contributions. School Council has decided to invite parents to make the following payments in these optional and voluntary categories:

- 1) Excursion Levy 2) Voluntary Building Fund (*tax deductible*) 3) Voluntary Grounds Maintenance

The Government offers a ‘Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund’, (CSEF). Parents who hold a current Health Care Card are eligible for an annual payment of \$125.00 per child, paid to the school that can only be used for any camps, sports, excursions or incursions. If parents received this allowance in 2018 any unused balance will be carried over into 2019. (The \$100.00 Excursion Levy will be automatically deducted from the CSEF for eligible children in 2019. The remaining \$25.00 will be left in credit for the child.)

1) Excursion Levy \$100.00

This is an upfront payment covering events such as visiting performances/specialists and extracurricular educational trips out of the school. (Swimming, camps and sports are not included in this levy.)

This Levy must be paid ***no later than Friday 8th February 2019***; otherwise a ‘pay as you go’ system is offered.

School Council encourages families to pay the excursion levy. We have found many families choose this option as it helps with household budgeting throughout the year.

Throughout the year, particularly for upper year levels, other sporting or extracurricular experiences are offered to the students which may require an additional payment from parents. For such activities a note will be sent home well in advance and the cost of the activity identified.

If a child is unable to attend an excursion or incursion and a balance remains from their Excursion Levy, the unused portion will be credited to their account.

2) Voluntary Building Fund Donation (Tax Deductible) \$ _____

This Voluntary donation is tax deductible and a receipt will be issued. It is held in trust for us to utilise for renovation and improvement to buildings. This fund will be very important as we complete the move into our new school buildings next year. *Please nominate your preferred amount. (Many families choose to contribute \$30.00 per year.)*

3) Voluntary Grounds Levy \$30.00 per family

School Council invites families to pay \$30.00 which provides maintenance and improvement of the school grounds.

Please complete the attached form, one for each family, and return it to the office no later than Friday 30th November 2018. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this please contact Brenda Michael (Business Manager) in the office.

Yours Sincerely,

Bruce Lee (School Council President)

Leigh Johansen (Principal)