

February 2021

## 2021 Student Charges and Voluntary Contributions

Dear Parents,

Our school is looking forward to another great year of learning for all the children in 2021. I would like to advise you of Essex Heights Primary School's, School Council endorsed, parent payment arrangements for 2021.

Essex Heights Primary School has an established tradition of providing a broad and comprehensive curriculum to meet the needs of all students. Educational programs relate to a curriculum based upon the Victorian Curriculum. *The school relies upon and appreciates the financial commitment made by all parents to meet some of the costs of their children's education.*

School funding comes from two sources: those that are provided from Government sources and those provided through local contributions. Increasingly funds from local sources are sought in order to meet the high expectations that our school community has for our students which in turn ensure that our educational provision is second to none.

We receive a grant for each student from the Department of Education and Training. This grant is required to cover a wide range of items such as electricity, gas, water, postage, telephone and other matters central to the functioning of the school. In addition, the grant **assists** with the provision of **very basic** curriculum materials and equipment.

School Council reviews Parent Payments annually. In 2021 the Student Charges have been separated into two areas **Essential Student Learning Items** and a **Voluntary Contribution per student for General Classroom Materials, Resources & School Equipment**. Although this is a different format to past years, the amount being asked from parents has not changed (refer to Fee Schedule on page 3).

The **Essential Student Learning Items** include all necessary stationery and materials for student use in the classroom, i.e. pens, pencils, workbooks, rulers, diaries etc., as well as online subscriptions essential for student learning of the curriculum, e.g. Essential Assessment and consumable materials, items which students take possession of, e.g. paint and craft materials for Art/ArtSEL.

The **Voluntary Contribution for General Classroom Materials, Resources & School Equipment** will assist with the purchase of Information and Communications Technology (including considerable computer related materials and consumables), Health & Physical Education, Sporting equipment, Music, Indonesian resources, Science, Literacy materials and Mathematics equipment. This money directly funds and enables the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning experiences for your child.

### **Voluntary Contributions: Grounds Maintenance, ICT Support & First Aid Officer**

Parents are also invited to make voluntary financial contributions towards Grounds Maintenance, ICT Support and First Aid Officer. Whilst these contributions are voluntary, they are important to support the effective operation of our school.

#### ***Grounds Maintenance***

***\$30 per family***

This contribution enables our grounds to be kept in a safe and presentable condition and assists with the purchase of materials for grounds improvements. The Department does not provide funds for us to employ a person for this purpose.

#### ***ICT (Computer) Support***

***\$30 per family***

Currently the Department funds a network of schools based technicians to work in our school for one day per week. This is not sufficient to meet our complex needs in this area. Funds provided in this area would enable us to increase the level of ICT support to ensure that all computers, notebooks and iPads are working effectively across the network.

### **First Aid Officer**

**\$30 per family**

Many schools do not have a Health Centre that is staffed by a qualified first aid officer five days per week. We have chosen to do this, so that we can ensure the health and safety of the children, and that there is good communication about illness and medical issues between home and school. This contribution is needed to support the costs involved in providing this service in 2021.

### **Policies**

A copy of the Department of Education & Training Parent Payment Policy and Essex Heights Primary School Refund Policy are both available on our Website.

### **Payment Methods**

All suggested Payments will be able to be paid via Compass Pay, B-Pay using the Biller code from your family statement, and via Eftpos at the School Office.

### **Support**

The school appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulty in meeting payment requests. A number of support options are available to parents who have difficulty making payments including the school's secondhand uniform sales, State Schools' Relief, or the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), and Payment by instalments.

If you are experiencing difficulty in making the requested payments please contact our Parent Payment Contact, Barbara McCann, by phone on 9807 4944 or email [Barbara.McCann2@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Barbara.McCann2@education.vic.gov.au) who can have a confidential discussion with you about alternate arrangements.

### **Fee Schedule**

Your child will not be disadvantaged if you do not make a voluntary contribution. All records of voluntary contributions are kept confidential as well as your decision about whether to make a contribution or not.

### **Parent Payment Charges 2021 Summary**

Essential Student Learning Items	Amount \$ 180 per student
General Classroom Materials, Resources & School Equipment (Voluntary)	Amount \$ 170 per student
Grounds Maintenance (Voluntary)	Amount \$ 30 per family
ICT (Computer) Support (Voluntary)	Amount \$ 30 per family
First Aid Officer (Voluntary)	Amount \$ 30 per family

Please also refer to the attached Fee Schedule for further information regarding Parent Charges for 2021 which includes Essential and suggested Voluntary Contribution amounts.

Yours sincerely

**George Perini**

Principal

**Jennifer Bittner**

School Council President

## FEE SCHEDULE – PREP – GRADE 6

### Essential Student Learning Items

Below is a list of items and activities which are essential for your child to learn the standard curriculum. You may choose to purchase these items through the school or provide your own. Please indicate which items you would like to purchase through the school on the table below:

Essential Student Learning Items	Amount per Student
Student's classroom stationery, workbooks & The Resilience Project diary. Access to online subscriptions for online learning e.g. Essential Assessment, Seesaw	\$150
Art/ArtSEL consumables i.e. paint & art craft materials	\$30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$180</b>

### Voluntary Contributions

Essex Heights Primary School continues to welcome your voluntary contributions to support our school and the maintenance of our high expectations for student learning.

At EHPS we are very proud of the resources we provide our children for their learning. We strongly encourage you to make the voluntary contribution towards General Classroom Materials, Resources and School Equipment because it directly impacts upon your child's learning experience everyday they are at school.

Voluntary Contribution	Tax deductible	Suggested Voluntary Contribution per Student		Amount
General Classroom Materials, Resources & School Equipment	No		\$170	

### Fee Comparison 2020 and 2021

2020 Charges		2021 Charges	
School Fee	\$350	Essential Student Learning Items	\$180
		General Classroom Materials, Resources & School Equipment	\$170
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$350</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$350</b>

We also ask you to make these other voluntary contributions to support your child's learning, health and safety, and our school's external environment. These contributions for specific priorities are listed below.

Voluntary Contributions	Tax deductible	Suggested Voluntary Contribution per family		Amount
First Aid Officer	No		\$30	
Grounds Maintenance	No		\$30	
ICT (Computer) Support	No		\$30	