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2021 Student Charges and Voluntary Contributions

Following our school council meeting last night, I would like to share with you the latest information about Fees and charges for next year.

Though payments are not being asked for at this time, we hope that the information provided below will assist families to plan for next year

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.

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. ***\$180 per child***

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 a high-quality teaching and learning experiences for your child. ***\$170 per child***

At Essex Heights we are accustomed and very proud of the resources we provide our children for their learning. We strongly encourage all parents to make the voluntary contribution towards General Classroom Materials, Resources and School Equipment because it directly impacts upon the children's learning experience every day, they are at school.

The total being asked for in 2021 is \$350, which is exactly the same amount as this year.

Voluntary Contributions: Grounds, ICT Support & First Aid Officer

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

Grounds & Maintenance contribution**\$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 technician to work in our school for a day and a half 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 aide 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.

Payment Methods

All suggested Voluntary Payments will be able to be paid via Compass Pay. Essential Items, Instrumental Music & Camps & Excursions can be paid via Compass Pay, B-Pay using the Biller code from your family statement & via Eftpos at the School Office.

Support

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