

Seaholme Primary School

Parent Payment and Voluntary Financial Contributions Policy

Rationale:

- Locally raised funds add significantly to the school's ability to provide a diverse and high quality curriculum

Aims:

- To provide a diverse range of high quality learning opportunities for all students.

Implementation:

- School council seeks to supplement Department of Education and Training resources with a variety of locally raised funds, including charging Parent Payments.
- Early in term 4 of each year, the Finance committee, after consulting with subject coordinators and other relevant staff members, will make recommendations to school council regarding proposed *Parent Payments for Student Materials and Service Charge* for the following year.
- School council will only consider submissions for parent payments consistent with the 'Parent Payments in *'Victorian Government Schools Document 2007.'*
- The purpose and amount charged for parent payments will be decided by school council, and communicated to parents as part of the school's book list & charges during Nov. / Dec of each year.
- Generally, *Parent Payments for Student Materials and Service Charge* may be charged for essential educational items eg. stationery, textbooks, materials for learning and teaching where a child consumes or takes possessions of the finalised article ie. photography, catering.
- Any charge must not exceed the cost of providing those materials or services to students.
- Students must not be denied access to a particular subject due to their inability to contribute to the relevant *Student Materials and Service Charge*. However, unless the relevant subject levy is paid the student may not be provided with the higher cost materials or services relating to that subject.
- The provision of student reports cannot be conditional upon the payment of a *Student Materials and Service Charge*.
- Items made by students during subjects for whom the parents have contributed financially become the property of the student.
- Where a parent pays a levy for a specific purpose, the school may not use the funds for any other purpose without the consent of parents.
- The school portion of each eligible parent's Education Maintenance Allowance can be used to pay for *Student Materials and Services Charge* that parents are normally expected to pay.
- As with all parent payments to the school, school council will provide opportunities for all parents experiencing financial difficulties to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the principal to pay school levies.
- In addition to school *Student Materials and Service Charge*, school council may also seek voluntary contributions.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle. School council will review the level and purpose of school levies annually.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

March 2008