



PARENT PAYMENT POLICY

Rationale:

- 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.

As Parent Payments are used to enhance the quality and variety of educational programs offered by our school, School Council requests payment from parents for certain student materials and services charges and for modest financial contributions. These contributions have been charged in three categories – Essential Student Learning items, optional education items and voluntary financial contributions.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with Mildura West Primary School Parent Payment Arrangements Understanding Your School Fees.

Aims:

- To provide high quality learning opportunities for all students, by supplementing limited government funds with approved financial contributions and payments from parents.

This policy ensures that:

- costs are kept to a minimum
- payment requests are clearly itemised under the three parent payment categories
- items that students consume or take possession of are accurately costed
- no student will be treated differently, denied access or refused instruction to the standard curriculum program for not making a payment or voluntary contribution
- access to enrolment or advancement to the next year level will not be withheld as a condition of payment for any of the three categories.

Mildura West Primary School spends considerable time selecting the most appropriate items and services to meet the needs of our students.

Parents and guardians also have the option of purchasing equivalent materials from other sources. If parents and guardians choose to provide equivalent materials, this should be done in consultation with the school, as items should meet the specifications provided by the school. There may also be certain items that due to their nature may only be provided by the school.

Implementation:

Parent Payment Categories

Essential Student Learning Items

These are items, activities or services that are essential to student learning of the standard curriculum. These items may include items that the student takes temporary or permanent possession of, or activities associated with instruction that all students are expected to attend.

Optional Items

Mildura West Primary School offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the delivery of the standard curriculum. These items and activities are designed to broaden the school experience for your child.

Voluntary Contributions

Mildura West Primary School continues to welcome your voluntary contributions and your fundraising efforts to support our school.

You can make a general voluntary contribution that goes towards all of our school's important priorities for 2021 as well as providing additional activities and services for all students.

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Other support options

The school appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulties in meeting requests for payments and contributions. Parents who hold a concession card may be eligible for Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) or Prep Uniform Support.

Mildura West Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund**
- **State Schools Relief uniform applications**
- **Subsidised year 6 windcheaters at half cost price**
- **Subsidised Year6 Graduation**
- **Below cost, rent to buy iPad and cover for years 3-6**
- **Volunteer operated Breakfast Club three days per week**
- **Centrepay deduction facility**
- **Payment Plan arrangements**

Payment arrangements

Parents and guardians will be provided with early notice of payment requests for Essential Student Learning items, and optional items (e.g. a minimum of three weeks' notice prior to the end of the previous school year in December).

Costs will be kept to a minimum with payment requests/letters fair and reasonable. To further assist parents with payments, three payment options have been developed.

OPTION 1: Payment by instalments: Cash, Eftpos or BPay facility

OPTION 2: Credit card by phone

OPTION 3 CentrePay

Alternative payment options are available through the school and parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the school to discuss circumstances and available options.

Payments may be requested but not required prior to the commencement of the year in which the materials and services are to be used.

Receipts will be issued to parents immediately upon making payment.

All records of payments or contributions and any outstanding payments by parents and guardians are kept confidential.

Invoices for unpaid **Essential Student Learning Items** and **Optional Extras** will be sent home monthly. Unpaid **Essential Student Learning Items** payments will not result in any detriment by the school to the student or family.

Unpaid **Optional Extras** payments may compromise a student's ability to be involved in the optional activity in question.

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MILDURA WEST
PRIMARY
INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE
SCHOOL



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Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Signed:

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Rohan Robertson
Council President

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Anne Robinson
Principal

Document:

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