



General Information Letter for Parents – PARENT PAYMENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian

Drouin South Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Drouin South Primary School parent payment arrangements for 2021.

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.

Free instruction is the teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with the instruction of the standard curriculum program.

The Department of Education and Training *Parent Payments in Victorian Government Schools* policy provides advice on the different types of payments that schools can request from parents and outlines the procedures and protocols schools must adhere to. This policy is available from the Department Education Website and Drouin South Primary School website.

School councils are responsible for developing and approving parent payment arrangements in alignment with the Department of Education Policy.

Parents can be asked to pay for items, activities and services in three Parent Payment Categories:

- **Essential Education Items** which parents/guardians pay the school to provide (or may provide themselves, if appropriate), for example, stationery, text books, cooking ingredients, products that students take home and subject area items
- **Optional Education Items** which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents/guardians may **choose** whether their child accesses or participates in (for example, school magazines or extracurricular programs or activities); and
- **Voluntary financial contributions** which parents/guardians may be invited to donate to the school.

Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that their children are provided with Essential Education Items. The school makes every effort to keep the cost of items that need to be purchased at a minimum.

If parents choose to provide equivalent materials for Essential Education Items themselves, this must be done in consultation with the school, and items should meet the specifications provided by the school.

Alternative payment arrangements are also available through the school.

The Drouin South Primary School Council has made a considerable effort to ensure that this school policy is fair and provides a number of options to support parents to access the materials and services associated with their child's education.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss your circumstances and the options available to you, please contact the school to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Michael Smith
PRINCIPAL