



## ***Mainstream and Steiner Education Two streams – one river***

# Fees and Charges Policy

### Purpose

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Funds are required to cover the cost of books, printed notes, resource material, consumables, equipment, excursions and camps, etc. These expenses are only partly met by government grants.

This policy sets out the way in which the school sets fees and charges to supplement its income in order to provide a quality educational program for all students.

Every effort is made to provide a quality Mainstream Education and Steiner Education stream for the most affordable fee.

### Materials and Services Charge

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Materials and services charges are set each year to cover the cost of the items and services provided to students, so they can complete their curriculum. The charge does not cover the following costs as these are covered by the department:

- staff costs (teaching or ancillary)
- teacher resources
- facilities (includes maintenance)
- school operating costs (for example, utilities)..

Each year, the Principal determines the items and services that are to be included in the charge and the total amount of the charge. The Governing Council endorses the charge then polls the school community to seek majority support for the amount and subsequently approves it.

Families who are eligible may apply for financial assistance through the Government sponsored School Card scheme. Families are however, expected to pay the gap between government assistance and the Materials and Services charge.

Note: The Materials and Services charge for the Steiner Education stream is greater than for Mainstream due to the additional cost associated with supplying materials.

## School Camps

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School Camps are an important element of a student learning program. They are conducted at a location away from the school and involving one or more overnight stays. Activities such as camps and excursions can greatly enhance the progress of children's learning, offering new, varied, challenging and practical experiences across the learning areas. All teachers/schools, where practical / possible, seek to schedule such experiences in their educational programs.

A detailed breakdown of a camps activities and cost is provided to parents and caregivers well in advance of the camp. It is expected that the camp fee is paid in full upon receipt of an invoice from the school unless an alternative payment plan is negotiated with the Principal.

## Payment of Fees and Charges

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Payment of fees and charges is required on receipt of the invoice unless prior arrangements have been agreed to by the Principal. Payment methods are Cash, Credit Card and Direct Deposit into the School account.

Payment details are available from the front office.

## School Card

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The School Card Scheme provides monetary assistance from the government for lower income families. Further information about this scheme is available from the office.

If you are approved for school card the standard sum of the materials and services fee will be paid by the government for you. We do however expect a commitment to pay the gap amount by the due date. Payment of this gap amount is required to make the school and streams viable.

## Payment Default

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It is expected that fees for the year are paid in full upon receipt of an invoice from the school unless an alternative payment plan is negotiated with the Principal.

As agreed and minuted by Governing Council, non-payment of the compulsory component of school fees by the due date, without any negotiated arrangements are referred to the departmental debt collection agency.

Governing Council will be notified of the number of parents with default payments twice per annum.

Version	Date Prepared	Date Adopted	Approved By	Next Review
1	26-Jul-2018	30-Jul-2018	N Saccoia	30-Jul-2021