

# FINANCES

## POLICY ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

### The Legal Position

The State Government through the Department of Education provides placement at educational facilities for all students who choose to attend Government schools. The Department also pays for the wages of all teaching and non-teaching positions plus costs such as repairs, maintenance and utilities. Government does not provide for many goods and services which students use and it is reasonable for parents to meet these costs.

### Where do contributions and charges go?

Some examples include: ingredients in home economics, transport, photographic equipment and supplies, art materials, timber, metals, consumable tools, external instructors, sporting equipment, text books, etc.

### How much can be charged?

For Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 the maximum voluntary contributions a school may charge is currently fixed at \$235, however additional compulsory charges above that figure can be requested for consumable and additional resources.

For Years 11 and 12 there are no maximum charges set by the State Government. Schools endeavour to set their own charges for these years and such charges are compulsory. The school can also request a 50% confirmation charge for these years.

### Who should pay?

Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected contributions and charges, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges. Parents of students who choose the more expensive option subjects need to consider the costs during the subject selection process. All would agree that it is unfair for those parents who meet their financial commitments to be seen to subsidise the education of those students whose parents do not pay their contributions and charges. This school is committed to an even-handed and responsible approach so that all parents should make contributions towards their children's education.

### A Compassionate View

This school is only too aware that the payment of school contributions and charges can be a burden for some families. Part payments, deferred payments and credit card debits are all available to support parents experiencing difficulties. In some cases of financial hardship the Principal will consider full or partial waiver of contributions and charges. However, we do need to talk to you about this. Ignoring accounts and reminders is unhelpful to all parties. The school is also keen to assist parents in selecting options that they can afford. To this end subject charges will always be provided to parents prior to selection of subjects.

If parents are having difficulty paying contribution and charges, please contact the Manager Corporate Services, Arlene Thomas to discuss possible payment options.

### Payment Options

The school makes provision for the following payment options:

- Our preferred method of payment is via **Qkr** (pronounced "Quicker") app. Please go to the school website, choose About Us tab and **Qkr!** Payments for instructions on how to download the App.
- Full payment by cheque, cash, EFTPOS or credit card (in person or by phone).
- Payments by instalments by the above methods.
- Direct Credit to our account listed below:

BSB:	306 054
Account Number:	4157610
Narration:	Child Surname, Initial and Year

### Collecting contributions and charges

The school will take a positive approach to collecting contributions from parents of students in Years 7 to 10. In particular, the school will highlight the benefits to students if all parents meet their contributions. With respect to charges for Years 7 to 12, the school will actively seek full payment of charges.

The School Board, in support of this process, has endorsed the following actions:

- Regular accounts sent home to parents.
- Parents who refuse to communicate with the school and have made no effort to pay charges will be referred to our debt collection agency as permitted in the regulations.
- Students whose family has a history of non-payment will be refused enrolment in high cost subjects.
- Year 11 and 12 high cost subjects will require a 50% confirmation charge prior to enrolment.
- Sanctions on extra curricula activities may be imposed at the discretion of the Principal. This could include camps, school socials and sporting activities.

### Payment for Excursions

Payment for excursions should be made using **Qkr** Payment App. The easy to use App gives you flexibility to pay for Activities, External Courses and Tours at a time and place that suits you. Please refer to the instructions above on how to download this App. If you do not have access to the internet and would prefer an alternative method, please contact cashier Alison Faulkner on 9441 1711.

### Incentive for Early Payment of Your Account in Full

Pay the amount listed on the bottom of your contributions and charges by 31 March 2017 and you will go into a draw to win back your payment. There will be six winners; a prize draw for each year level - Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

