



## PARENT PAYMENT POLICY

### Purpose

To ensure that the parent payment practices of Surrey Hills Primary School are consistent and transparent and meet the requirement of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 that provides for all children having access to the standard curriculum.

### Introduction

Learning and teaching programs vary across Victorian schools and are based on local needs and circumstances and reflect each school's priorities, decisions and resources. As such, school councils are able to request payments or contributions for education items and services from the parents and guardians for students in Victorian government schools in the following three categories:

- Essential education items
- Optional extras
- Voluntary financial contributions

Surrey Hills Primary School takes pride in delivering an enhanced curriculum and learning environment over and above what is funded by the Department of Education and Training. However the school is committed to keeping costs as low as possible, without compromising the quality of education provided to all students of the school.

Parent contributions, in all forms, assists Surrey Hills Primary School to provide enriched learning and teaching programs for every student and is highly valued by the school community.

### Scope

This policy ensures that:

- Costs of the enriched learning program provided at Surrey Hills Primary School 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

Surrey Hills Primary School spends considerable time selecting the most appropriate items and services to meet the needs of our students. Furthermore Surrey Hills Primary School ensures diligent budget management to invest in IT hardware, software, networking and support to deliver outstanding programs, without parents and guardians burdened by having to provide items such as personal IT devices.

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

### Parent Payment Categories

**Essential education items** are those items or services that are essential to support the course of instruction in the standard curriculum program that parents or guardians are requested to pay the school to provide or may provide themselves if appropriate.

These items include:

- Materials that the student takes possession of, including text books and student stationary
- Materials for learning and teaching where the student consumes or takes possession of the finished articles (e.g. home economics, visual artwork)
- School uniform (sport)
- Transport and entrance for camps and excursions which all students are expected to attend

