PARENT PAYMENTS & VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**Rationale:**

- The quality and variety of educational programs offered by our school are enhanced if departmental funds are supplemented by parent payments and voluntary contributions.

**Aims:**

- To provide high quality learning opportunities that cater for the needs of all students.

**Implementation:**

- School Council seeks to supplement Department of Education and Early Childhood Development funds by seeking materials payments and voluntary contributions from parents and guardians.
- School Council will request payments from parents in the following categories:
  - essential educational items which parents/guardians are required to provide or pay the school to provide for their child (eg. Stationery, text books and uniforms)
  - optional extras which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents/guardians may choose whether their child accesses participates in (eg. School magazines or extra curricular programs or activities)
  - voluntary financial contributions which parents/guardians may be invited to donate to the school (eg. Grounds beautification, extra computers)
- Voluntary contributions are not compulsory, and students whose parents have not paid voluntary contributions will not be treated differently from those who have.
- School Council will make clear distinctions between voluntary contributions and those materials and services which parents are required to pay, so that parents are not confused regarding the voluntary nature of the contributions.
- The public identification of students or their parents where voluntary contributions have or have not been paid will not occur.
- School Council requests for parent payments and voluntary contributions will be kept to a reasonable level and within expectations of the school community.
- School Council will provide all parents with information detailing the purposes for which payments and voluntary contributions are being collected.
- As with all parent payments to the school, school council will provide opportunities for all parents experiencing financial difficulties to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the principal when making voluntary contributions.
- Unpaid Voluntary Contributions do not constitute outstanding debts.
- Unless agreed by parents, the school’s proportion of each eligible parent’s Education Maintenance Allowance will not be used for the payment of voluntary contributions.

**Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle. The level and purpose of voluntary contributions will be reviewed by school council annually.