



22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## Re: 2020 School Account (Student Education Contributions)

The *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* provides that instruction in the standard curriculum program is delivered free to all students in Victorian Government schools; this is referred to as 'free instruction'. The Act also grants school councils the power to charge fees for goods and services to support the delivery of free instruction and to raise funds.

Each year our School Council is responsible for the preparation of a budget to provide resources for educational programs, administration, facilities maintenance, and student/classroom resources. The development of this budget is aligned with the Department of Education and Training (DET) policy, 'Parent Payments in Victorian Government Schools'.

The DET provides funding to schools through the School Resource Package (SRP) that is supplemented through locally raised monies via fundraising, the hire of facilities and family contributions. The SRP includes funding for staffing, the standard curriculum program, equipment and operational costs such as utilities, maintenance, ICT costs and resources. Approximately 90% of the SRP funding is required to cover the cost of the employment of staff, leaving the remainder to meet all other operational costs.

As such, the maintenance of our facilities, curriculum opportunities and the means by which they are presented, rely on additional contributions from parents. *We are extremely grateful to all of our school families who have paid their school fees which has made an enormous difference to our school in 2019.*

In 2020 we will require your support again as we have some major plans to continually improve our school and also make a significant difference to the education provision offered.

### Parent Payments

In accordance with DET policy, School Councils can request payments from parents for student materials and services charges, and for voluntary financial contributions. These payments fall into three categories:

1. **Essential education items** which parents and guardians are **required** to pay the school to provide for their child (e.g. stationery, text books and associated learning materials or program costs).
2. **Additional school charges** which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents and guardians may **choose** whether their child accesses or participates in (e.g. Extra-curricular programs or activities such as instrumental music, incursions or excursions etc).
3. **Voluntary financial contributions** which parents and guardians may be **invited** to donate to the school (e.g. grounds beautification, library or building maintenance).

### **Building Fund**

The Department of Education & Training grants are insufficient to keep our buildings in their best condition. As a voluntary contribution to your child's education, School Council provides a tax deductible opportunity to enable you to help improve the school facilities. The Hughesdale Primary School Building Fund is used solely for the upgrade and maintenance of our school buildings. Contributions over \$2 are fully tax deductible and School Council thanks you in advance for your donation to this fund.

### **Grounds and Maintenance Donation**

We are most fortunate to have an excellent outdoor environment for our students and staff at Hughesdale Primary School. School Council is requesting a contribution of \$100 which will be utilised primarily by the Buildings & Grounds Sub-Committee to support on-going maintenance of the school.

### **The 2020 School Fees – In Summary**

#### ***Essential Education Items;***

As decided at the October School Council meeting, school fees for essential education items in 2020 will be;

Foundation to Year 4 - \$275.00 for the year  
Years 5 and 6 - \$350.00 for the year

We have differentiated these amounts to better reflect the financial demands placed upon the school by specific year levels. In Years 5 & 6, we continue with programs such as 1:1 Laptop provision which the variance in charges now reflects.

#### ***Additional School Charges***

Each student will be given opportunities over the year, to participate in additional learning experiences that may incur an additional charge. This includes incursions and excursions, sport or camping programs. Parents will be invited to pay for these as they arise, through our online platform *Compass*, as part of providing permission to participate.

#### **Additional School Charge – Interschool Sport for Years 5 and 6**

To cover the costs of this program, an annual charge is itemised as an additional item to be paid with school fees. The total charge for Interschool Sport is \$120 per child.

### ***Voluntary Contributions***

Some of our achievements in 2019 have included;

- Internal painting of the Main school building.
- Purchase of additional take home readers and class sets of books. We have also developed our English storage room with a compactus to ensure all students benefit from having these additional resources easily accessible for teachers.
- We have commenced the development of an Oral Language learning hub in the Tanner Building.
- The brick fence in the Car Park has been replaced.
- Installation of rubber tiles in the stairwells of the main building, increasing safety (and their cosmetic appearance!)
- Internal wall repair in room 7.
- Fixtures and fittings in the Tanner Building, furnishings for school bags and storage.

- Parent Information sessions on Spelling, and Health Education for our Year 5 & 6 families.
- Air Conditioning in the Tanner Building (in addition to money raised with the support of our Parents And Friends Team and community fundraising efforts).
- 100 Additional Lap Top Computers to replace aging machines and ensure a 1:1 program in Years 5 and 6.
- Interactive Televisions in the Tanner Building.

While the list for 2019 is something I hope everyone feels proud of, we continue to strive for ongoing improvement across all areas of the school in 2020. Some items on our wish list include;

- Refurbishing the toilets in the main building
- New Carpet
- A mural on the west facing walls of portables 1 and 2.
- Repairing the grassed area where Portable 4 was temporarily housed
- Additional Laptops for our growing enrolments
- A Fan for the Gymnasium
- Purchasing 2 new flagpoles to fly the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Flags.
- Continue to develop the school's external facilities such as additional play areas and landscaping.

#### Voluntary Contributions in 2020

- Voluntary Contribution - \$150
- Maintenance Fee - \$100
- Our Building Fund - (Tax Deductible for all families), is a suggested amount of \$100 or an amount set at your discretion.

#### **Please note:**

School Council understands that some families may have difficulty in meeting these contributions, Mrs. Gough, or our business manager Bridene Forrest, are both available to discuss your own circumstances in a totally confidential manner if alternative arrangements need to be made.

#### **Due Date for Payments**

**We are accepting payment for the 2020 School Accounts through our online platform *Compass* (preferred method), Bpay or at the school office from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019.** If paying at the office please ensure you complete and print the Compass online fee schedule and submit with payment.

If you elect to pay your 2020 School Account next year, we would appreciate receiving these contributions on or before **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 or as per agreed payment plan.**

We would like to thank you for your contribution during the 2019 school year and we look forward to your continued support in 2020 and beyond.

**Mrs Rozelle Azad**  
School Council President

**Mrs Kirsten Williams**  
School Council Treasurer

**Mrs Lisa Gough**  
Principal