



# Korumburra Primary School

Be Respectful, Be Resilient, Be Safe and Be a Learner

## PARENTS PAYMENTS POLICY

### PURPOSE

The Department's new Parent Payment Policy brings a stronger focus to transparency and family hardship, as well as outlining the expectations of implementation and communication with parents. The policy also emphasises that all children should have access to the standard curriculum regardless of their parents' ability to pay.

### SCOPE

Schools are funded to deliver a quality education based on the standard curriculum. The funding covers teaching staff, administration, and the provision of facilities in connection with instruction of the standard curriculum program, including reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.

Parent payments are a valuable contribution to enhancing and enriching the educational experience. These payments allow schools to offer enhanced programs and opportunities which their school communities expect them to offer.

### DEFINITIONS

The Act allows school councils to set their own payments in accordance with Department of Education and Training policy.

Schools serve different communities with different needs and expectations for the curriculum and can request payments to cover costs for their learning programs.

The costs associated with the administration and coordination of the standard curriculum program are considered part of free instruction and must not be passed onto parents.

### POLICY

Korumburra Primary School strives to make parent payment contribution decisions in good faith and in the best interests of their students. School council aims to keep costs to a minimum so that they are reasonable and affordable to most parents at the school. In setting the fees, school council ensures that parents understand the links between the school's learning programs and the payments being requested

Parent payments requested are for Essential Student Learning Items that the school deems essential to student learning in the standard curriculum including:

- **items which students take temporary or permanent possession of**, including textbooks, student stationery and school uniforms (where applicable)
- materials for learning and teaching where students **construct, consume, or take possession of the finished articles** (for example completed art projects, home economics, ceramics, photography, materials for build-your-own-kits)
- **activities that all students** are expected to attend (for example, transport and entrance costs).

Korumburra Primary School chooses to purchase these items on behalf of parents so that all students have the correct learning materials and as it is purchased in bulk a discount applies and it lowers the cost to parents. Parents have the option of purchasing equivalent materials from other sources, however this needs to be done

in consultation with the school and should meet the specifications provided by the school. Some items, for example food provisions for home economics, may only be provided by the school.

## OPTIONAL ITEMS

Optional items are items or services that are offered in addition to the standard curriculum. These items are provided on a user-pays basis and if parents choose to access them for their child, they will be required to pay for them.

These items include:

- **items the student purchases or hires** such as school magazines, class photos, fees for guest speakers, functions, formals, and student accident insurance
- **activities the student purchases** such as fees for extra-curricular programs or activities such as, instrumental music tuition
- **items and materials that are more expensive** than required to meet the standard curriculum (for example, requesting payment for the use of mahogany in woodwork instead of the standard pine).

## VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Parents are invited to make a donation to the school for a general or specific purpose, e.g., school grounds projects, library fund or for new equipment. Some Voluntary Financial Contributions are tax-deductible.

## SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Families that are experiencing financial difficulties or unable to meet the full or part payments requested can discuss arrangements in respect to payment requests when experiencing long term hardship or short-term crisis on a confidential, case by case basis.

Korumburra Primary School has written hardship arrangements that include a proactive approach to providing support for parents experiencing financial difficulty.

Please contact the school office and make an appointment with the Business Manager to discuss payment arrangements.

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2022
Consultation	August 2022 – School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2024