



KEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

No 1075

PEEL STREET

KEW 3101

T 03 9853 8325

F 03 9853 3029

www.kewps.vic.edu.au

Email: kew.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Dear Parents / Guardians,

On an annual basis School Council reviews the budget and sets the level of essential and voluntary financial contributions required from parents' to meet the needs for the next school year.

Kew Primary School's income is currently funded from two sources:

- The Department of Education & Training (DET) Student Resource Package (SRP) pays for school administration, utilities and services, staff salaries, urgent works, cleaning and general school operations;
- The essential and voluntary contributions from our parents' which are a major source and significant component of our educational and school program funding.

Following careful consideration, School Council has set these contributions per student for 2018 as follows:

ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING ITEMS

TOTAL: \$430 per student

The *Essential Student Learning Items* charge has increased by \$10 from last year to cover those items the school provides over and above DET State Government funding. All parents are expected to pay for these items, which include but are not limited to:

- Student stationery such as materials, books, pens, pencils, printed materials for the year;
- Materials and consumables for classroom learning;
- Information and computer technology requirements including software licenses, computer equipment and technical support necessary to support the learning environment for each class;
- Specific items and requirements for all curriculum areas including Art, French and Physical Education;
- Photocopying, mathematics subscription, assessment programs and all other costs associated with classroom and specialist programs.

In order to keep the contributions as low as possible, we will purchase supplies in bulk to obtain competitive prices and ensure all students are using the same materials. This process also allows us to optimise the resources used in all classrooms each year.

We have received close to 100% of essential payments this year so thank you for your support.

It is absolutely vital that the school receives payment from all families for the essential student learning items portion of our school payments.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS - TOTAL SUGGESTED AMOUNT OF \$230 per student

These payments are incredibly important for our school. In 2017 we received voluntary payments from over 60% of our families. This assisted us to refurbish both the boys and girls toilets in the main building, ensure our facilities and grounds were well maintained, purchase valuable learning resources in maths, literacy, Library and ICT resources including interactive screens and computers in the classrooms.

PTO

For 2018, we recommend the following voluntary contributions:

LIBRARY & LEARNING TRUST FUND: The suggested amount for this is \$100 which is tax deductible.
The amount has increased from \$50 last year to \$100 in line with our increased focus on Literacy & Inquiry. Our Library specialist program supports a targeted approach to English, particularly reading, as part of our current strategic plan. The purchase of school library literature resources, class sets of books, reference materials, affiliation fees and maintenance of ICT hardware and software is critical to our goal for all students to find their love of learning.

BUILDING TRUST FUND: The suggested amount is \$100 which is tax deductible.
The Building Fund amount remains the same as previous years and is used to ensure our school facilities are maintained to the appropriate standards as well as being used to fund larger scale capital works projects such as the refurbishment of our school toilets. All contributions to this fund will enable maintenance of the school grounds including the employment of a part time maintenance person to ensure appropriate safety standards are met. DET does not provide funding to address all of the works and essential items needed for our school. These shortfalls are met from locally raised funds. To improve the hygiene of the toilets, and provide play spaces that accommodate all student needs, the ongoing upkeep of our school, including painting of our buildings given we are the oldest school in Kew, is critical to creating a stimulating learning environment.

FIRST AID FUND: The suggested amount is \$30

These contributions assist to offset the cost of maintaining and staffing our First Aid room for qualified First Aid Officers.

If you require further clarification of information about parent payments please see the link at the School Policy & Advisory Guide:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/parentpayments.aspx>

You can also find our School Council Approved Parent Payment Policy on our school website:

http://www.kewps.vic.edu.au/files/7714/7330/3231/Parent_Payment_Policy_2016.pdf

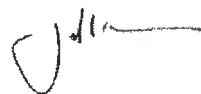
These payments are due by 1st March 2018 however we would welcome payments before Friday 15th December or at the start of Term 1 next year to ensure we have the funds to support our core programs.

If you are experiencing hardship or financial difficulties and are unable to make any type of school payment including those listed in this letter, please contact James Penson (nominated parent payment contact person) at the school to discuss options including an alternative payment plan. These conversations are always kept confidential.

We truly believe a strong home-school partnership is critical to the success of student learning and engagement and we look forward to continuing the journey.



James Penson
Principal



Julie Coleman
School Council President

Understanding Parent Payment Categories

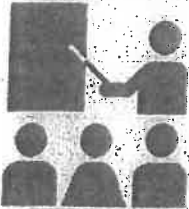
Schools

What does the legislation say?

The Education and Training Reform Act (2006) provides for free instruction in the standard curriculum program to all students in government schools. The Act also empowers school councils to charge fees to parents for goods and services provided by the school to a child.

In the Act, a 'Parent' includes a guardian and every person who has parental responsibility for a child including parental responsibility under the Commonwealth Family Law Act 1975 and any person with whom a child normally or regularly resides.

What do schools pay for as part of 'free instruction'?



Free instruction is the teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with the instruction of the standard curriculum program, including reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.

The standard curriculum for Years F-10 means Implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

The standard curriculum for senior secondary schools means a program that enables a student to be awarded a VCE or VCAL qualification.

What principles govern parent payment practice?

Educational Value | Access, Equity & Inclusion | Affordability

Engagement & Support | Respect & Confidentiality | Transparency & Accountability

Parents

What may parents be asked to pay for?

Schools can request payment for Essential Student Learning Items



These are items, activities or services that the school deems essential to student learning of the standard curriculum.

Where practical and appropriate, parents may choose to purchase items through the school or provide their own.

These may also be either:

Items the student takes temporary or permanent possession of

- e.g.
- textbooks, activity books, exercise books
 - stationery, book bags
 - student ID cards, locks
 - cooking ingredients students will consume
 - materials for final products that students take home (technology projects, build-your-own kits, dioramas)
 - Picture Exchange Communication Systems

Activities associated with instruction that all students are expected to attend

i.e. travel, entry fees or accommodation

- e.g.
- excursions
 - incursions
 - school sports
 - work placements

Parents can be asked to pay for items, activities and services in the three Parent Payment Categories:

Essential Student Learning Items, Optional Items and Voluntary Financial Contributions.

Schools determine how items, activities and services are classified within these categories based on the learning and teaching program of their school.

Schools can request payment for Optional Items

These are items, activities or services that are optional and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum.

Students may access these on a user-pays basis.

These may be either:

Items the student purchases or hires

- e.g.
- school magazines, class photos
 - functions, formals, graduation dinners
 - materials for extra curricular programs
 - student accident insurance

Activities the student purchases

- e.g.
- fees for extra curricular programs or activities, such as instrumental music tuition
 - fees for guest speakers
 - camps, excursions, incursions, sports
 - entry fees for school run performances

Items and/or materials that are more expensive than required to meet the standard curriculum

- e.g.
- use of silver in metal work instead of copper
 - supplementary exam revision guides

Support for families experiencing hardship is available at every school and each school has a parent payment contact person. See your school's policy for more information.

For more information on Parent Payments and Personal Devices, visit the DET website at: www.education.vic.gov.au

Schools can invite Voluntary Financial Contributions for



- e.g.
- Building or Library fund (Tax deductible)
 - Voluntary contributions for a specific purpose, such as equipment, materials, services.
 - General voluntary contributions