

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

1. Rationale:

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

2. Aims:

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

3. Implementation:

- 3.1 School Council seeks to supplement Department of Education and Training funds by seeking voluntary contributions from parents and guardians.
- 3.2 Voluntary contributions are not compulsory, and students whose parents have not paid voluntary contributions will not be treated differently from those who have.
- 3.3 School Council will make clear distinctions between voluntary contributions and those materials and services for which parents are required to pay, so that parents are not confused regarding which contributions are compulsory or voluntary.
- 3.4 The public identification of students or their parents where voluntary contributions have or have not been paid will not occur.
- 3.5 School Council requests for voluntary contributions will be kept to a reasonable level.
- 3.6 School Council will provide all parents with information detailing the purposes for which voluntary contributions are being collected.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Unpaid voluntary contributions do not constitute outstanding debts.
- 3.9 Unless agreed by parents, the school's proportion of each eligible parent's Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) will not be used for the payment of voluntary contributions.

4. Evaluation:

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle. School Council will review the level and purpose of voluntary contributions annually. This policy was ratified by School Council on 20th April 2015.