



WELLINGTON SECONDARY COLLEGE

Parent Payment Policy

PURPOSE

To ensure that parent payment practices are consistent, transparent and ensure that all children have access to the standard curriculum.

The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 provides for instruction in the standard curriculum program to be free to all students in government schools. School councils are responsible for developing and approving school-level parent payment charges and can request payments from parents under three categories only- Essential Student Learning Items, Optional Items and Voluntary Financial Contributions.

PARENT PAYMENT CHARGES

Schools, best placed to make local decisions, ensure that all students can access a broad range of learning opportunities that support their expectations and promote their aspirations as they move through the education system. Parent contribution, in all forms, assists schools to provide an enriched learning and teaching program for every student and is highly valued by school communities.

Essential Student Learning Items are those items, activities or services that are essential to support student learning of the standard curriculum. These are items that the school considers essential for all students and which students take possession. Parents may choose to provide the items themselves or buy the items from the school where practical and appropriate.

The College Service Charge comprises Essential Student Learning Items utilized by all students and incurred above the basic government funding.

Annual Lease of a Locker	\$30.00 per student
1:1 Devices, onsite support of Insurance claims and repairs	\$50.00 per student
Annual Education Affiliations	\$20.00 per student
Entrance Fees - Swimming/Athletics/Cross Country School	\$20.00 per student
Sport Activities	
Printing of educational resources	\$75.00 per student
Computer Software/Licenses –school specific programs	\$30.00 per student
Compass School Communication Package	55.00 per student
TOTAL	\$280.00 per student

Optional items – Items or services offered to support instruction and in addition to the standard curriculum program, on a user-pays basis. If parents choose to access them for students, they are required to pay for them and could include the following items:

- Excursions / Incursions relevant to subjects taught at Wellington Secondary College – travel and entry costs
- Year 8 Camp \$450 or Alternate Program \$50
- Music Tuition for all year levels \$200 per instrument
- Year 9 Alpine School \$1200
- Year 9 New Caledonia French Study Tour \$1982
- Year 9 Victorian Young Leaders to China Study Tour \$3500
- Year 10 Mount Buller Snow Fields \$200
- Year 11 Presentation Ball \$350
- Year 12 Formal \$90

Voluntary financial contributions \$20 an invitation to make a **voluntary** contribution or donation* to the school for the following purposes:

- Teaching and General Program Contribution used to provide specialized education equipment to enhance Student outcomes.
- Donation* to Building fund -established 1997 (endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office and **donations \$2 and over are tax deductible**) enables members of the school community to invest in the school's building projects so it can continue to provide excellent learning facilities.
- Donation* to Library fund –established 1997 (endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office and **donations \$2 and over are tax deductible**) enables members of the school community to contribute to continued innovative learning resources now and in the future.

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS AND METHODS

Parents will be provided with early notification of annual payment requests by December and reasonable notice will be given for any other payment requests during the year (i.e. excursions).

Parents are able to arrange to make payments in instalments, be provided with several methods of making payment Cash, cheque, credit card ,Bpay or direct deposit.

Parents are able to enter into confidential payment arrangements by contacting the Business Manager (Sharon Graham) on 9547 6822 or email graham.sharon.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES IN 2018

The College has received Government funding “Education State” Equity strategy for 2018. Being mindful of the increased costs families will incur with the change to an offsite Uniform supplier and the College Charter Bus in 2018, we will continue to look at all costs, programs and advise the College community when we are able to implement additional support. The support for 2018 includes the subsidy of all class material and elective costs for students and is only for 2018 at this stage and will be reviewed again next year, with planning for 2019 dependent on funding available at that time.

FAMILY SUPPORT OPTIONS

There are a number of support options available for parents including but not limited to;

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund**. This government initiative will continue into 2018. Parents will need to apply in early 2018 and funds will be available to all students whose parents hold a valid means tested Health Care Card. We do not hold this information on file so please make sure that you apply at the General Office. The amount available to eligible families is \$225 per student, which will be available for costs of Sporting Activities and events, School Camps and Excursions out of the College or Incursions at the College.
- **State Schools’ Relief** may cover the cost of new school uniforms, shoes, books and more for disadvantaged students. Parents or Carers who are struggling need to make an appointment with the school to discuss their situation.
- Families can access www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au for supply of secondhand textbooks and uniform items used at Wellington Secondary College – link found on the Wellington Secondary College website
- Wellbeing support is available by contacting the College for an appointment with our Welfare Officer.
- The school understands that families may experience financial difficulties or hardship at times and may be unable to meet full or part payments requested. Families are invited to contact the Business Manager Sharon Graham by telephone 9547 6822 or email to graham.sharon.j@edumail.vic.gov.au for a confidential discussion and information regarding support options.

Information regarding support options is available from the general office and will be advertised periodically in the Newsletter, on compass news feeds and on the website.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

The Parent Payment Policy will be published on the school website. General enquiries regarding parent charges may be made to the office on 9547 6822 Concerns should be directed in the first instance to the Business Manager Sharon Graham.

MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

The School Council (via the Finance Committee) will conduct an annual review of the implementation of the Parent Payment Policy including addressing any concerns raised by the school community. Any changes to the Policy Implementation will be reported back to the community via notice on the schools website and report in the schools Newsletter.

The full Parent Payment Policy is available from the Department’s [School Policy and Advisory Guide](#).

Answers to the most commonly asked questions about school costs for parents see:

[Frequently Asked Questions – For Parents](#)

Date of approval by School Council

(November 2017)