

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: Parent Payments 2021**

The Benton Junior College School Council has approved the school's parent payment charges. The Parent Payment Policy, and how the school will implement the policy, is available on the school website.

- **Essential Student Items** which are essential to support the course of instruction in the standard curriculum. These are items and services that the student will either consume or take possession of throughout the year to support their learning (for example, stationery, text books, art supplies, technology supplies, literacy resources, numeracy resources, etc.). Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children are provided with essential educational items and are **required** to buy these items through the college, or provide these items themselves. The college makes every effort to keep the cost of items and services that need to be purchased to a minimum. Note that there may be some items or services you cannot purchase yourself.
- **Optional Items** (or non-essential materials and services) are those that are provided in addition to the standard curriculum program, and which are offered to all students. These optional extras are provided on a user-pays basis and if parents and guardians choose to access them for students, they will be required to pay for them.

These items include:

- camps, excursions, extra-curricular programs and inter-school sport;
- school-based performances, college productions and events;
- student ipad program, computer printing for personal use, internet access for recreational or non-school use;
- instrumental music program, including instrument hire.

These Optional Programs will be invoiced each term, with details of each item.

- **Voluntary Financial Contributions** which parents may be **invited** to donate to the college. Benton Junior College is fortunate to have extensive playing fields and very well maintained grounds and facilities. To enable the School Council to continue to invest in grounds improvement we need your financial support to assist the funding of these ongoing works. **Although voluntary, we would appreciate if you could pay a contribution for Grounds Improvement as our facilities and grounds are used and enjoyed extensively by all our children throughout the year.**

The school appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulty in meeting payment requests. A number of support options are available to parents who have difficulty making payments including the school's second-hand uniform shop, State Schools Relief or the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund. While payment is not required until the start of the 2021 school year we would appreciate payment by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. All parent payments and contributions can be made by cash, Bpay, Compass or debit/credit card at the school's office. If you are experiencing difficulty in making the requested payments please contact our Principal by phone 5973 9100 to arrange a confidential discussion.

Kind Regards



Melissa Wisniewski  
Principal



Lisa Michod  
School Council President

The following is a summary of the main principles of the Parent Payments Policy:



### FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.



### PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

- Schools do not ask parents to pay for school operating costs (e.g. utility costs) or general and unspecified charges.
- Schools request payments from parents under three categories:

#### Essential Student Learning Items

- Items and activities which the school deems essential for student learning.
- Parents may choose to purchase essential items through the school or provide their own.

#### Optional Items

- Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum.
- These are provided to students on a user-pays basis.

#### Voluntary Contributions

- Voluntary contributions support the school to continue to be the best local school for all students and can be for general or specific purpose.
- Students will not be disadvantaged in any way if parents do not make a contribution.



### FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



### SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and upload their arrangements on their school's public website for transparency.