Parent Payment Policy

The Education & Training Reform Act 2006 empowers School Councils to charge parents for goods and services used in the course of instruction of their children, as well as to raise funds. As the quality and variety of educational programs offered by our school are enhanced by doing so, our School Council requests payment from parents for certain student materials and services charges and for modest voluntary financial contributions.

Drysdale Primary has spent considerable time selecting the most appropriate requisites to meet the needs of our children.

School Council supplements Department of Education & Early Childhood Development funds by requesting payments from parents for the following:

**Essential education items** are those items or services that are essential to support the course of instruction in the standard curriculum program that parents and guardians are responsible for and may choose to either provide or pay the school to provide.

These items include:
- materials that the student takes possession of, including text books and student stationery
- materials for learning and teaching where the student consumes or takes possession of the finished articles
- transport and entrance for camps and excursions which all students are expected to attend.

**Other education 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:
- extra-curricular programs or activities
- school-based performances, productions and events, and
- school magazines, class photographs, Year 6 tops.

**Voluntary financial contributions** are for those items and services that parents/guardians are invited to make a donation to the school, for example, the buildings fund.

Parents will be made aware of the costs associated with all payments and voluntary contributions by December of the previous year, along with a recommended payments schedule.

The payments schedule will include itemised details relating to all payments, essential payment dates, options to make payments by instalments, clear definitions of the category of any payments (i.e. Essential, Optional or Voluntary), an alignment between payment dates and the timing of E.M.A. payments and advice to parents to contact the Principal if they require support or additional information.

All payments and non-payments will be strictly confidential. The public identification of students or their parents where payments have or have not been received will not occur.

All costs and processes associated with parent payments and voluntary contributions will be reasonable, will be defensible in relation to DEECD requirements and will be within the expectations of the school community.
Invoices for unpaid Essential Items and Optional Extras will be mailed termly, with requests for Voluntary Financial Contributions to occur in February and July (if required) each year.

Unpaid Essential Items payments will not result in any detriment by the school to the student or family. Unpaid Optional Extras payments may compromise a student’s ability to be involved in the optional activity in the future. Unpaid Voluntary Financial Contributions do not constitute a non-payment and will not result in any detriment by the school to the student or family.

No collectors of any type, including debt collectors, will be used to obtain funds from parents or students.

Parents who make voluntary contributions will receive letters of appreciation.

The Principal will ensure that all staff are aware of this policy and adhere to it.

As with all parent payments to the school, Council will provide opportunities for all parents experiencing financial difficulties to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the Principal.