

PARENT PAYMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

The Victorian community shares a vision to build an education system that champions excellence and ensures that every child and young person has access to the opportunities to succeed in life, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Schools are best placed to 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.

Learning and teaching programs vary across schools based on local needs and circumstances and reflect each school's priorities, decisions, and resources. This, in turn, informs the parent payment charges approved by school councils that may vary from one school to the next.

POLICY

Mount Waverley Secondary College Council will annually review parent payments requested to ensure they comply with Department of Education and Training guidelines. Charges will be clearly itemised, costed and categorised as Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions or Extra-Curricular Activities Contributions.

Parent contribution requests will be made in line with the principles of: Educational value; Access, equity, and inclusion; Affordability; Engagement and Support; Respect and Confidentiality; Transparency and Accountability.

Parent contributions will be requested to assist the college in providing and enhanced teaching and learning program for every student which will be aligned with college priorities.

Students will not be treated differently, denied access to the standard curriculum program, or refused instruction based on payments not being made for Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions and extra -Curricular Activities Contributions.

Students will not be denied access to enrolment or advancement to the next year level as a condition of payment of Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions or Extra- Curricular Activities contributions.

Records of payments or contributions by parents and guardians will be kept confidential.

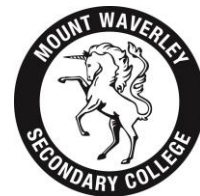
Receipts will be issued to parents immediately upon making payment.

Parents and guardians will be provided with an alternative education program for their children if they choose not to participate in an excursion or camp.

Mount Waverley Secondary College administrative and financial processes are compliant with Departmental requirements such as CASES 21 financial reporting.

Parents and guardians will be provided with notice of requests for payment of Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions and Extra-curricular Activities Contributions in December of the prior year.

Parents may pay in a lump sum, by arranged instalments or individual payment plans as per arrangement through the Finance office.



SUPPORT

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

- Second hand uniform shop located on college grounds.
- Camps, Sports & Excursion Funding (CSEF) available to eligible parents
- State Schools Relief support available for uniforms/footwear/calculators/textbooks
(Via the College Wellbeing Team)
- Local community supports (Wellbeing Team can provide further information).

Information regarding support options is available from the general office and will be advertised periodically in the College newsletter.

The College understands that families may experience financial difficulties or hardship at times and may be unable to meet full or part payments requested. Families experiencing financial hardship are invited to contact the Accounts Receivable Officer to make payment arrangements or alternatively can contact the Wellbeing team for a confidential discussion and information regarding support options.

COMMUNICATION

Communication with parents will be provided with a clear description of each of the three parent payment categories Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions, and Extra -Curricular Activities Contributions

The Parent Payment Policy and Implementation will be published on the College website.

General enquiries regarding parent statements may be made to Accounts Receivable Officer on 9803 6811 or finance@mwsc.vic.edu.au.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/parentpayments.aspx>

EVALUATION

The College Council will conduct an annual review of the implementation of the Parent Payment Policy. Any changes to the Policy Implementation will be reported to the College community via the College website.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy will be reviewed annually by College Council

This Policy is to be presented to Finance committee on 18th May 2023 and to be endorsed by College Council on 18th May 2023