



Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: 2020 Parent Payments**

Ringwood North Primary School Council has approved the school's parent payments for 2020.

The *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* provides that instruction in the standard curriculum program is delivered free to all students in Victorian Government schools; this is referred to as 'free instruction'. Free instruction includes learning and teaching, instructional supports, administration and facilities associated with the provision of the standard curriculum program. The standard curriculum program includes core learning and teaching activities.

The Act also grants School Councils the power to charge fees for goods and services to support the delivery of free instruction and to raise funds. There are three areas for which parents may reasonably be requested to make a payment or contribution:

- **essential education items** which parents/guardians pay the school to provide or may provide themselves, if appropriate (for example, stationery, text books and excursions (travel and entry costs));
- **optional educational items** which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents/guardians may **choose** whether their child accesses or participates in (for example, school magazines or extracurricular programs or activities); and
- **voluntary financial contributions** which parents/guardians are invited to donate to the school.

Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that their children are provided with essential education items. The school makes every effort to keep the cost of these items to a minimum.

Please find attached the itemised list that includes essential education items (those items that your child needs for school) and optional extras (that you can choose whether your child participates in or accesses) and voluntary financial contributions (a recommended amount has been suggested however parents/guardians are welcome to contribute an alternative amount).

All parent payments and contributions can be made by Compass (preferred method), cash, and cheque or debit/credit card at the school's office. We request payment by the 14 February 2020 for payment in full, or 1<sup>st</sup> instalment to be paid by the 14 February 2020, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment to be paid by 26 March 2020, 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment 14 May 2020, and 4th instalment to be paid by the 26 June. The payment options can be selected on Compass.

Alternative payment arrangements are available for families. If you have any queries or wish to discuss your circumstances and possible options, please contact the office to make an appointment with the Business Manager or the Principal.

A range of support is available to parents who experience financial difficulty, including the school's second-hand uniform shop, State Schools Relief Committee or the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund.

Please forward to the office both the completed itemised list and payment advice form when making your payment.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Chatterton

Principal

Michele Whitby

School Council President