

November 2019



**Teesdale Primary School**

**Main Road, Teesdale**

**Phone 03 5281 5218**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: Parent Payments 2020**

The Teesdale Primary School Council has approved the school's parent payment charges.

The Parent Payment Policy, and how the school will implement the policy, is attached as well as the 2020 list of payment items/services requested for your child's program.

Payment is not required until the start of the 2020 school year on the following Book Pack Days:

**Tuesday 21 January 2020 for A-L families**

**Wednesday 22 January 2020 for M-Z families**

All parent payments and contributions can be made by cash or debit/credit card at the school office, or electronically by BPay with your unique biller code. Once payment has been received, the Book Box will be delivered to your child's classroom, ready for the first day of school.

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 items at the office, State Schools Relief, or the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund.

If you are experiencing difficulty in making the requested payments please contact our school principal, Sam Irwin, on 03 5281 5218 to arrange for a confidential discussion about alternate payment arrangements.

We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing all students return to school on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Sam Irwin  
Principal



Samantha Laro-Bashford  
School Council President

Teesdale Primary School

Parent Payment Charges & Payment Options for 2020

Please find the itemised lists that includes:

1. Essential student learning items (those items that your child needs for school)
2. Optional Items (that you can choose whether your child participates in or accesses)
3. Voluntary Items (this is at parent’s discretion)

Teesdale Primary School makes every effort to keep the cost and number of items that need to be purchased to a minimum. We also try to ensure that the costs are affordable for all parents. If you will have difficulty making payments please make contact Grant Rau to discuss possible support options and payment arrangements. Any information about your financial circumstances, payment arrangements or status will be kept strictly confidential.

**ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING ITEMS**

In accordance with the “Parent Payments in Victorian Government Schools” directives, our Essential Student Learning Items charge covers items which are essential for your child’s schooling.

| Charge Item                         | Prep            | Year 1          | Year 2          | Year 3          | Year 4          | Year 5          | Year 6         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Book Pack (stationery requirements) | \$112.00        | \$72.00         | \$70.00         | \$75.00         | \$67.00         | \$69.00         | \$61.00        |
| Mathletics                          | \$15.00         | \$15.00         | \$15.00         | \$15.00         | \$15.00         | \$15.00         | \$15.00        |
| Reading Eggs                        | \$18.00         | \$18.00         | \$18.00         | \$18.00         | \$18.00         | \$18.00         | \$18.00        |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>\$145.00</b> | <b>\$105.00</b> | <b>\$103.00</b> | <b>\$108.00</b> | <b>\$100.00</b> | <b>\$102.00</b> | <b>\$94.00</b> |

**BOOK PACKS**

The standard book pack provides parents with high quality items at a lower than catalogue price, according to year levels. Your child may not require every item, but because the book packs are supplied as standard issue, it is cheaper to leave all items on the list. Parents may choose to provide or purchase some items themselves. If you choose to do this you must consult with the school so that your child has the right items. There may be some items or services you cannot purchase yourself.

**Please advise the school office by the 13 December 2019 if you do NOT wish the school to order a 2020 Book Pack for your child.**

**BOOK PACK DAYS:**

**Tuesday 21 January 2020 for A-L families**

**Wednesday 22 January 2020 for M-Z families**

**Once payment for the Book Pack has been received, your Book Box will be delivered to your child’s classroom ready for the first day of school.**

**MATHLETICS SUBSCRIPTION**

**The compulsory cost is \$15.00 per student for Mathletics for 2020.**

Mathletics is a captivating online learning space providing students with tools they need to be successful learners, both in the classroom and beyond. Tasks, games and learning tools are aligned to the Victorian Curriculum mathematics standards across primary years.

**READING EGGS SUBSCRIPTION**

**The compulsory cost is \$18.00 per student for Reading Eggs for 2020.**

ABC Reading Eggs make learning to read interesting and engaging for students, with great online reading games and activities. Children enjoy the games, songs, golden eggs and other rewards, which along with feeling proud of their reading, really motivates them to keep exploring and learning.

Note: Reading Eggs and Mathletics is subsidised by the Government and at Teesdale Primary School and is accessed by all students in all grades. Teachers can assign tasks at appropriate level and target learning to each child’s needs.

**OPTIONAL ITEMS**

May be offered on a user-pays basis and parents and guardians may choose whether their child accesses or participates (e.g. CAMPS, SPORTS EVENTS, EXCURSIONS extra-curricular programs or activities such as school based performances, productions or events)

Please note that we have only listed the major events within our school to assist you will budgeting.  
 There will be other excursions/activities/sports items that may be required to be paid during the school year.

| Event<br>(estimated costs only)                   | Prep     | Year 1   | Year 2   | Year 3   | Year 4   | Year 5   | Year 6   |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Young Leaders Conference<br>20/03/2020            |          |          |          |          |          |          | \$55.00  |
| Year P-2 Swimming Program<br>20/07/19- 31/07/2020 | \$120.00 | \$120.00 | \$120.00 |          |          |          |          |
| YMCA 3/4 Camp Wyuna<br>19-21/10/2020              |          |          |          | \$260.00 | \$260.00 |          |          |
| 5/6 Camp Kangarooobie<br>06-09/12/2020            |          |          |          |          |          | \$285.00 | \$285.00 |
| Graduation – Dec 2020                             |          |          |          |          |          |          | \$55.00  |
| Sports Days                                       | \$15.00  | \$15.00  | \$15.00  | \$60.00  | \$60.00  | \$60.00  | \$60.00  |

**VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Parents and guardians are invited to make contributions to support the ongoing effective running and development of the school.

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>School Contribution</b><br><i>Fee per student to assist with purchase of equipment, materials and services.<br/>           An offer of a \$200.00 cap will be extended to families with three or more children in attendance.</i>  | <b>\$80.00</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kitchen Garden</b><br><i>Fee per student for the maintenance and upgrade of our grounds.<br/>           Our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program is an important part of our school. The students learn to plant and nurture fruit and vegetables in the kitchen garden and harvest the produce to cook in the Mudbrick Kitchen.<br/>           The school ensures the grounds are kept up to standard by employing a contractor to mow.<br/>           We have a garden and a kitchen specialist to maintain and manage the kitchen garden.<br/>           Parents will also be able to help by taking part in working bees and programs.</i> | <b>\$25.00</b> |

**PARENT PAYMENT CHARGES**

All parent payments and contributions can be made by cash or debit/credit card at the school office.  
 Invoices can be paid by BPay with your unique biller code.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Book Packs</b> - payment required on Book Pack Days   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On Book Pack Days</li> <li>- In full by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020</li> <li>- In regular instalments</li> </ul> |  |

# PARENT PAYMENT POLICY

## PURPOSE

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

## RATIONALE

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 make local decision which 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.

## IMPLEMENTATION

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 Council is 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.

**Essential education items** are those items 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 of. Parents may choose to provide the items themselves or buy the items from the school where practical and appropriate.

**Optional items** are those items, activities or services that are offered in addition to or support instruction in the standard curriculum program. These are provided on a user-pay basis so that if parents choose to access them for students, they are required to pay for them.

**Voluntary financial contributions** Parents can be invited to make a donation to the school for a general or specific purpose, e.g. school ground projects, library fund or new equipment. Only some Voluntary Financial Contributions are tax-deductible.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss your circumstances and the options available to you, please contact the school to make an appointment.

## INFORMATION

Further information can be found on the Teesdale Primary School Website: [www.teesdaleps.vic.edu.au](http://www.teesdaleps.vic.edu.au)

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](#)

# Understanding Parent Payment Categories

## Schools

### What does the legislation say?

The Education and Training Reform Act (2006) provides for free instruction in the standard curriculum program to all students in government schools. The Act also empowers school councils to charge fees to parents for goods and services provided by the school to a child.

In the Act, a 'Parent' includes a guardian and every person who has parental responsibility for a child including parental responsibility under the Commonwealth Family Law Act 1975 and any person with whom a child normally or regularly resides.

### What do schools pay for as part of 'free instruction'?



Free instruction is the teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with the instruction of the standard curriculum program, including reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.

The standard curriculum for Years F-10 means implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

The standard curriculum for senior secondary schools means a program that enables a student to be awarded a VCE or VCAL qualification.

### What principles govern parent payment practice?

Educational Value | Access, Equity & Inclusion | Affordability

Engagement & Support | Respect & Confidentiality | Transparency & Accountability

## Parents

### What may parents be asked to pay for?

#### Schools can request payment for Essential Student Learning Items



These are items, activities or services that the school deems **essential** to student learning of the standard curriculum.

Where practical and appropriate, parents may choose to purchase items through the school or provide their own.

These may also be either:

**Items the student takes temporary or permanent possession of**

- e.g.
  - textbooks, activity books, exercise books
  - stationery, book bags
  - student ID cards, locks
  - cooking ingredients students will consume
  - materials for final products that students take home (technology projects, build-your-own kits, dioramas)
  - Picture Exchange Communication Systems

**Activities associated with instruction that all students are expected to attend**

i.e. travel, entry fees or accommodation

- e.g.
  - excursions
  - incursions
  - school sports
  - work placements



Parents can be asked to pay for items, activities and services in the three Parent Payment Categories:

**Essential Student Learning Items, Optional Items and Voluntary Financial Contributions.**

Schools determine how items, activities and services are classified within these categories based on the learning and teaching program of their school.

#### Schools can request payment for Optional Items

These are items, activities or services that are **optional** and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum.

Students may access these on a user-pays basis.

These may be either:

**Items the student purchases or hires**

- e.g.
  - school magazines, class photos
  - functions, formals, graduation dinners
  - materials for extra curricular programs
  - student accident insurance

**Activities the student purchases**

- e.g.
  - fees for extra curricular programs or activities, such as instrumental music tuition
  - fees for guest speakers
  - camps, excursions, incursions, sports
  - entry fees for school run performances

**Items and/or materials that are more expensive than required to meet the standard curriculum**

- e.g.
  - use of silver in metal work instead of copper
  - supplementary exam revision guides

Support for families experiencing hardship is available at every school and each school has a parent payment contact person. See your school's policy for more information.

For more information on Parent Payments and Personal Devices, visit the DET website at: [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

Schools can invite **Voluntary Financial Contributions** for



- e.g.
  - Building or Library fund (Tax deductible)
  - Voluntary contributions for a specific purpose, such as equipment, materials, services.
  - General voluntary contributions