



# Mildura Specialist School No.5251

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Striving for Independence

## PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

*Mildura Specialist School* is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of *the school's* parent payment arrangements for 2021.

*Mildura Specialist School* makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all parents.

### Financial Support for Families

*Mildura Specialist School* understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

*Sharyn Morris*

Ph: 03 5021 3311 | Email: [Mildura.ss@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Mildura.ss@education.vic.gov.au)

### Payment Methods

*Payments can be made throughout the year, if you would like to discuss this, please contact Sharyn Morris, Business Manager.*

For further information on the Department's Parent Payment Policy please see a one page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

**PENNY HALE**

Principal

# PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

## ONE PAGE OVERVIEW

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.