



BAYSWATER SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

An English/German Bilingual School

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HARDSHIP POLICY

PURPOSE

To provide opportunities for students of families experiencing financial hardship to participate in the full breadth of educational experiences.

RATIONALE

The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 gives School councils the responsibility for developing and approving school-level parent payment charges for goods and services used in the course of instruction of their children. School council appreciates that families may experience financial hardship which will impact on their ability to pay these charges. All efforts will be made to assist families to ensure their children are not disadvantaged.

IMPLEMENTATION

- School Council supplements Department of Education and Training funds by requesting payments from parents for the following items:-
 - Essential Education Items which parents/ guardians are required to provide or pay the school to provide as indicated in the school's Parent Payment Policy
 - Optional Extras which are offered on a user pays basis and parents can choose whether or not their child participates.
- Parents/guardians will be made aware of the costs associated with all annual payments 6 weeks prior to the due date.
- Clear definitions of the category of any payments (ie: Essential, Optional or Voluntary) will be made.
- Payment options, including an instalment plan will be made available to families.
- No student will be treated differently, denied access or refused instruction to the standard curriculum program for not making a payment or voluntary contribution.
- Parents will be made aware of any government or local financial support schemes (eg: Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, State Schools Relief) and how these funds may be used.
- Parents can access State Schools Relief for school uniform as well as the school's second-hand uniform shop.
- School Council will make available a modest annual discretionary budget that may be used to assist families experiencing financial hardship.
- All payments and non-payments by families and students in any school financial program will be strictly confidential.
- Any family experiencing financial hardship should contact the Parent Payment contact, Noleen Maxwell to discuss how the school can best assist them.