



Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations on your patience and persistence through a trying year. We're hoping the 2021 school year can be on-site and face-to-face. Whatever happens, it will be filled with joy and learning from BSPS's wonderful teachers.

Attached is a letter about the 2021 Parent Payment arrangements.

The reason we're writing to you is because the Department of Education has made changes to the policy and the form has changed from previous years. To make it more transparent, it now only lists stationery items like pens, pencils, glue sticks and exercise books (costing between \$90 and \$120, depending on the year your child is in).

**In previous years, the school asked for \$310 per child and an additional \$30 activities levy. There were also further opportunities for families to make additional voluntary payments – based on income levels – for parents and carers with the ability to pay.**

**The additional money was used for other essential items to support learning, including resources for Literacy, Numeracy, The Arts, STEM and the bilingual education. The money makes a big difference to what the school can offer.**

We understand it has been a difficult year, and many families are hurting financially. Additional payments are completely voluntary. Not paying won't have any impact on your child, and it won't ever be noted publicly.

**If you can pay as much as last year – or pay more to help families who might not be able to – the money will go to creating a better learning experience for all children.**

For example, we hope to build a new senior playground near the Park Street entrance and donations to the Building Fund are tax deductible.

Thank you again for the care and love you've shown through the home-learning experience. Here's to a great year ahead in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

BSPS School Council.



## **PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Dear parents and carers,

With planning for 2021 in full swing we are already looking ahead to another great year at BPS. We are very hopeful for a smoother year ahead and the chance to work very closely with all our children and make up for some of the upheaval this year.

The Department of Education & Training (DET) have recently reviewed and updated the Parent Payment Policy and there are some key changes for our school moving forward.

For the last two years at BPS, the Essential Student Learning Items totalled \$310 per child, with a \$30 charge for whole school activities. The changes to the policy now allow a greater level of transparency in how all funds are distributed to ensure high quality teaching and learning across the school.

## **Essential Student Learning Items**

These are items which are essential for your child to learn the standard curriculum at school and that they take **permanent possession** of during the year. The payment form includes a breakdown of these items for 2021.

You may choose to purchase these items through the school or provide your own.

## **General Contributions**

Previously allocated as part of the \$310, these contributions are now separate. They are allocated to cover other materials and resources your child uses at school and takes **temporary possession** of.

They contribute to learning area consumables, Literacy and Numeracy resources, sports equipment, Italian Language resources and technology. Payments of these contributions are now considered voluntary, however parents can choose to make a contribution of one of the suggested amounts.

Students will not be disadvantaged in any way if parents do not make a contribution.

To explain the changes further, we have attached the DET Parent Policy one page overview.

Please find the fee schedule for **Year 5/6** attached. Please complete this form and return to the school by 4 December 2020 so the school can prepare accordingly.

As always, we make every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all parents.

## **Financial Support for Families**

We understand that some families may experience financial difficulty and we offer a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- Families who do not have an immediate capacity to pay are also able to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the school.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact Mary Glendza on 9380 1231.



### **Refunds**

The School Council has the responsibility to ensure there is a fair and equitable refund system in place following payment. Please refer to the Refund Policy.

### **Fee Schedule**

Please find the itemised list of Essential Student Learning Items and range of voluntary contributions for your child in 2021.

Please complete the form and return to the school by 4 December 2020 so the school can prepare accordingly.

### **Voluntary Contributions**

As always, we welcome your voluntary contributions to support our school and rely on payments from these to provide enhanced resources across our curriculum areas and in classrooms. It also goes towards the costs of curriculum resources and to learning area budgets, which go directly into buying materials, resources and stationery for your child to use at school.

You can make a general voluntary contribution that goes towards all of our school's important priorities for 2021 as well as providing additional activities and services for all students.

Alternatively, you can make a voluntary contribution to any of the specific priorities outlined in the table below.

Your child will not be disadvantaged if you do not make a voluntary contribution. All records of voluntary contributions are kept confidential as well as your decision about whether to make a contribution or not.

### **Other Activities**

Families will be advised of details and cost of school or year level activities associated with instruction that all students are expected to attend e.g. camps, swimming, excursions and incursions leading up to the time of the event.

Further information on the Department's Parent Payment Policy can be found here:  
<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/parent-payment/policy>

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Strolla  
**Principal**

James Henry  
**School Council President**



# 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.



**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Essential Student Learning Items	Amount
<b>General Classroom Learning Items</b> – see attached.	\$60
<b>Visual Arts:</b> Includes clay, plasticine, glue sticks, scrap books, portfolio, textile materials, paint, pencils and textas	\$15
<b>STEM:</b> Includes science and chemistry materials, recycled materials, craft paper, baking goods, glue and general materials.	\$15
<b>Essential Student Learning Items Total</b>	\$90

Voluntary Contribution	Tax deductible?	Suggested Voluntary Contribution			Amount
<b>General Contribution</b> towards Class Materials, Numeracy, Literacy, Italian, PE and Performing Arts	No	e.g. \$220	e.g. \$250	e.g. \$300	\$
Voluntary Contribution	Tax deductible?	Suggested Voluntary Contribution			Amount
<b>Voluntary Contributions</b>	No	e.g. \$150	e.g. \$300	e.g. \$400	\$
<b>Building Fund</b>	Yes				\$
<b>Library Fund</b> <i>School Council has established tax-deductible gift recipient status with the Australian Taxation Office for the Building and Library Fund</i>	Yes				\$
<b>Total Voluntary Contributions</b>					\$ _____
<b>Essential Student Learning Items</b>					\$ 90
<b>Total Payment (including Essential Student Learning Items)</b>					\$

**Payment Methods**

How to make a payment		
<p><b>At the office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eftpos</li> <li>Cash</li> <li>Cheque</li> </ul>	<p><b>By Mail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fill out above credit card details</li> <li>Cheque</li> </ul> <p>Send to;</p> <p>56 Brunswick Road Brunswick East 3057</p>	<p><b>Electronic Payment</b></p> <p>Direct Deposit BSB: 063 228 Acc No. 10018837 Name: Brunswick South Primary School Enter description: ASmith(student name)/Levies/VolContr</p>





**Credit Card Payment Slip**

**Card No.**

**Cardholder's Name:**  **CCV**

**Cardholder's Signature:**  **Expiry Date**

**Booklist items**

Item	Quantity
PaperMate inkjoy 100 ballpoint pen medium black	1
A4 premium exercise book 10mm Grid 96 pages	1
OM96126 8 digit handheld calculator	1
Plastic 30cm clear ruler	1
PVC eraser free small	3
Shaker sharpener 2 hole	2
Faber Castell pencil classic coloured pk 24	1
Faber Castell connector pens assorted colours pk 12	1
Faber-Castell Jumbo wax crayon bright pk 12	1
Texta point 188 fineliner black	2
Glue stick	10
Mini whiteboard eraser	1
Assorted Drysafe whiteboard markers pk 6	1
Micador name twin zip pencil case	1
Staedtler Natural HB pencil	10
Exercise books 8 mm line 64 page	4
Green editing pen	1
Crossover pencil grips	1

**Please return this form to the School Office with payment details. Thank you**