

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

REQUESTING PARENT PAYMENTS FOR CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS – ONE PAGE OVERVIEW

OFFERING CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS ON A USER-PAYS BASIS



- Schools can invite parents to purchase camps or excursions on a user-pays basis if:
 - it is not required for students to meet Curriculum outcomes in the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major or the Victorian Pathways Certificate, *or*
 - there is a free alternative activity provided to meet Curriculum outcomes.
- Camps or excursions provided on a user-pays basis can still be linked to curriculum-based learning but must be categorised in Extra-Curricular Items and Activities.
- Schools can ask parents to pay for the costs of a user-pays camp or excursion, including transport, food, entry, accommodation (for students and teachers), and supporting casual relief teachers (during its operation, either on or off the school premises).
- Schools cannot ask parents to pay for the salaries of Department teaching staff attending a camp or excursion provided on a user-pays basis.
- Schools can invoice families for camps and excursions provided on a user-pays basis.
- Schools should help families facing financial hardship to purchase these camps or excursions.

REQUESTING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OTHER CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS



- Schools may request Curriculum Contributions towards the costs of camps and excursions that are required by all students to meet Curriculum outcomes.
- Each school determines whether a camp or excursion is required by all students to meet Curriculum outcomes based on their local context.
- Schools cannot deny student access to a camp or excursion on the basis of Curriculum Contributions not being made.

COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS



Schools must not:

- Indicate that contributions for camps and excursions are compulsory.
- Indicate that a user pays camp or excursion is compulsory for students to attend.

SUGGESTED COMMUNICATION



Inviting parents to pay for activities provided on a user-pays basis

- *We provide an opportunity for all students to attend this camp/excursion. Students will experience [adapt as relevant] the outdoor environment and build resilience, incorporating key learning opportunities related to the [subject] curriculum.*
- *This opportunity costs \$xx.*
- *[If relevant] – We have subsidised this experience so that it is affordable for families, with additional support options available based on need. Please contact [staff member] for more information regarding this support.*

Requesting contributions for activities required to meet Curriculum outcomes

- *This excursion is a required element of the school's Curriculum. All students are expected to attend.*
- *We invite you to support our school by making a Curriculum Contribution, so that we can continue to provide these opportunities for all students.*

For further advice or support in implementing the Parent Payments Policy in your school, please contact the School Operations and Governance Unit (SOGU) at parent.payments@education.vic.gov.au.