

# Charging Policy

## Introduction

1 Victoria has adopted the Local Authorities (LA) and National Association of Independent Schools & Non-Maintained Special Schools (NASS) charging policy, which recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities, including trips, clubs and residential experiences can make towards pupils education. Victoria aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of the school's broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils in the school and as additional optional activities.

2 The law states that education provided during school hours must be free. This definition includes materials, equipment and transport provided in school hours by the School. No pupil may be left out of any activity because their parents cannot or will not make a contribution of any kind.

## Policy

3 **Voluntary parental contribution.** The circumstances where Victoria will request a voluntary parental contribution is detailed in the LA & NASS charging policy in paragraph 3.3 and is as follows:

3.3.1 The Provider (Victoria) shall be entitled to request voluntary contributions from a Parent for any services, activities, materials or items of clothing provided by the Provider and not included or listed within the Fees detailed in the Individual Placement schedule. Neither a Child's Placement with the Provider (Victoria), nor his or her opportunity to take part in the whole curriculum of the School, shall be prejudiced by any unwillingness or inability on the part of the Parent to make Voluntary Parental Contributions.

3.3.2 Voluntary Parental Contributions shall be met by the parent or Child or Young Person (if over 18) where they or an authorised person have agreed in writing to do so and where the Authority has been given prior notification. The Authority accepts no responsibility for the payment of such contributions.

- 4 No charges will be made for any activity or materials which are essential to fulfil the statutory curriculum
- 5 Voluntary contributions from parents/carers may be sought to enable extra activities, which are deemed educationally desirable, to take place. These will include such activities as trips and educational visits.
- 6 Contributions requested will reflect the cost of the activity less any subsidy from funds available to the school.
- 7 No child will be excluded from an event or otherwise be treated differently, should a contribution not be made on their behalf.
- 8 If insufficient voluntary contributions are received the school reserves the right not to proceed with the event.
- 9 The cost of any activity not covered by voluntary contributions will be covered through the School Fund from Charitable donations or other grant making organisations.

This Policy will be reviewed as deemed necessary.

Keith Ellarby. Finance Business Partner.	October 2013.
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