

MRSHS CHARGES & CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY



THE LEGAL POSITION

The State Government through the Department of Education provides placement at educational facilities for all students who choose to attend Government schools. The Department also pays for the wages of all teaching and non-teaching positions plus costs such as repairs, maintenance and utilities. Government does not provide for many goods and services which students use and it is reasonable for parents to meet these costs.

WHERE DO CHARGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS GO?

Some examples include eg: ingredients in home economics, transport, photographic equipment and supplies, art materials, timber, metals, consumable tools, external instructors, sporting equipment, text books, etc.

HOW MUCH CAN BE CHARGED?

Year 7 – 10: Charges are applied to elective subjects which students and parents have selected for which payment is compulsory. Please note if payment is not received by the due date your child will be placed on a lower course cost option.

Year 7 – 10: Contributions are directly applied to each learning area to support your child's education by enabling the school to purchase extra materials, services and resources that are used daily in the classroom. At \$235.00 per year, this works out to less than \$6 per week or \$58.78 per term.

Extra cost optional components are for excursions, after school activities, competitions, camps etc. We work on a cost recovery basis and keep costs to an absolute minimum, to maintain maximum value for money for our families. Please refer to our Contribution & Charges book for the indicative costs.

Year 10 parents: who have not paid charges will be asked to pay an upfront payment of 50% of the cost of Year 11 2023 charges and enter into a payment plan to ensure to students are enrolled in their selected course.

Year 11 and 12: Subject charges are applied based on your child's selected subjects for year 11 and 12 and are all compulsory. Again, we work on a cost recovery basis and keep costs to an absolute minimum, to maintain maximum value for money for our families.

- Year 11 parents who have not paid current and past charges are to enter into a payment plan before the new year commences to cover year 11 and year 12 charges.
- Year 12 parents that have not paid charges by the due date (end of Term 1) are to enter into a payment plan with MRSHS. The balance of year 12 school charges needs to be paid by early August in order to avoid referral to a debt collection agency.



WHO SHOULD PAY?

Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected charges and contributions, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of charges and contributions. Parents of students who choose more expensive option subjects need to consider the costs during the subject selection process.

A COMPASSIONATE VIEW

This school is only too aware that the payment of school charges and contributions can be a burden for some families. Part payments, deferred payments and credit card debits are all available to support parents experiencing difficulties. In some cases of financial hardship the Principal will consider full or partial waiver of charges and contributions. Please complete the financial hardship form for further assessment. Ignoring accounts and reminders is unhelpful to all parties. The school is also keen to assist parents in selecting options that they can afford. To this end subject charges will always be provided to parents prior to selection of subjects. If parents are having difficulty paying contribution and charges, please contact the Manager Corporate Services, Cristina Oliveira to discuss possible payment options.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

The school makes provision for the following payment options:

- Direct payment to our account listed below:
BSB Number: 016-520
Account Number: 1083 88617
- Full payment by cheque, cash, EFTPOS or credit card (in person or by phone 97570700).
- Direct Debit. Please make an appointment with the school to get this set up
- Payments by instalments by the above methods.

COLLECTING CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

The school will take a positive approach to collecting contributions from parents of students in Years 7 to 10. In particular, the school will highlight the benefits to students if all parents meet their contributions. With respect to charges for Years 7 to 12, the school will actively seek full payment of charges.

The School Board, in support of this process, has endorsed the following actions:

- Regular accounts sent home to parents.
- Students whose family has a history of non-payment will be refused enrolment in high-cost subjects for any year group.
- Year 10, 11 and 12 high-cost subjects will require a 50% confirmation charge prior to enrolment if the outstanding balance is not fully paid.
- Parents who refuse to communicate with the school and have made no effort to pay charges will be referred to a debt collection agency as permitted in the regulations.
- A student's attendance of extra curriculum activities, that have a charge, could be affected. Their involvement will be at the discretion of the Principal. This could include camps, school socials and sporting activities and participation of other events as stated above.

