PARENTS PAYMENT POLICY

Rationale:
- Latrobe Special Developmental School offers a broad curriculum and provides a range of extra-curricular activities. The school requests payment from parents for a number of reasons. One of the main costs to be covered by parents is a compulsory transport charge for utilisation of the school buses via a small charge for petrol each time the student accesses the school owned buses. Programs are heavily subsidised by School but extra charges for excursions, camps, homecraft and swimming programs are requested from time to time.
- A yearly voluntary School levy of $80.00 p.a. to cover our buses oncost (registration, RACV, insurance, repairs etc.) is requested by School Council to all parents. The buses are utilised in most out of school programs and are also partly funded by DE&ED.

Aims:
- To provide a diverse range of high quality learning opportunity that enhances learning outcomes for all students.
- To monitor and assess parent costs and payments and to provide a process for parents to meet responsibilities associated with payments to the school.

Implementation:
- School Council seeks to supplement Department of Education and Early Childhood Development resources with a variety of locally raised funds, including charging an annual and minimal weekly levies.
- School Council requests for both annual and weekly levies will be kept to a reasonable level and within the expectations of the school community.
- Generally, weekly levies are charged as a subject contribution (e.g. swimming, bus fare, homecrafts charge). Any charge must not exceed the cost of providing those materials or services to students.
- Students must not be denied access to a particular subject due to their inability to contribute to the relevant subject levy or any voluntary contribution. However, unless the relevant weekly levy is paid the student may not be provided with the higher cost materials or services relating to that subject.
- Items made by students during subjects for which the parents have contributed financially become the property of the student.
- Where a parent pays a levy for a specific purpose the school may not use the funds for any other purpose without the consent of parents.
- The school portion of each eligible parent’s Education Maintenance Allowance can be used to pay for school levies for materials and services that parents are normally expected to pay.
- As with all parent payments to the school, school council will provide opportunities for all parents experiencing financial difficulties to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the principal to pay school levies.

Evaluation:
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in.... April 2009.