



ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
No.2608



## Student Charges 2018

December 19, 2017

Dear Parents,

This correspondence outlines the student charges arrangements for the 2018 school year that were approved by the AVPS School Council on November 20, 2017. These arrangements reflect our Parent Payment Policy that was also reviewed and approved on the same date.

### Payment Methods

Parents are asked to use the attached student charges sheet when making payments. Please circle or highlight the charges you wish to pay for your child or children. The office can accept payments from the start of term 1, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Payments can be made by cash, cheque or credit card in person, by phone 9370 6507 or by using the envelope system (purple print – available at the office). Please speak to one of our office staff members if you have any queries about our payment methods or if you wish to establish a payment plan. More information is available below regarding *Support for Families* under this heading.

### Student Charge Sheet

Each family will receive a separate student charge sheet that outlines our suite of charges for each year level in the following categories:

#### **ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING ITEMS**

PART 1 – Essential Student Learning Items

#### **OPTIONAL EDUCATION ITEMS**

PART 2 - Excursion and Sport Levy

PART 3 – Camp

PART 4 – Moonee Vale Instrumental Music Program (MVIMP)

PART 5 – Voluntary Contributions

Each of these categories are explained in detail below.

#### **PART 1 - Essential Student Learning Items**

This charge covers those items, activities or services that are essential to support student learning of the standard curriculum. These charges remain the same as the previous year (2017) and cover expenses for each child in the following categories:

- \$170.00- Essential Students Learning Items. These include classroom supplies such as (but not limited to) stationary and craft items; paper, pencils, pens, markers, glue, scissors as well as school wide online literacy and numeracy programs.
- \$14.00- Recorder -required once only for year Prep and year 1 students

All families are expected to pay the 2018 Essential Student Learning Items listed on the charge sheet.

#### **PARTS 2 - 5 - Optional Education Items**

These are the items, activities or services that are offered in addition to or support instruction in the standard curriculum program. These are provided on a user-pays basis so that if parents choose to access them for their child or children, they are required to pay for them.

Please be aware that the school relies on these payments to offer 'value-add' programs and these must be paid on time for children to participate. Parents/guardians are encouraged

to contact office staff if they have queries about these programs or to arrange a payment plan.

**PART 2 - Excursions / Sport/PE / Swimming** – Throughout the year, your child will have the opportunity to be involved in a) excursions (out of school activities) and/or incursions (in school activities) related to the learning focus in classrooms that are organised by classroom teachers and incur an additional cost, b) Sport & PE activities as well as c) a Swimming program, appropriate to developmental stages that are arranged by the PE teacher, also incurring additional costs. The student charge sheet includes yearly levies for a) Excursions and b) Sport/PE. Amounts vary according to different year levels. Please note the levies are **non-refundable** except in the event that families leave the school unexpectedly throughout the year and funds remain unspent or allocated. The swimming charge is a separate amount that solely covers the cost of this program. Prior to each activity in any of these categories, parents will receive a note outlining details of the excursion, incursion, Sport/PE or Swimming activity, requesting signed permission for their child to attend. Please note payment for individual activities outlined in 'a) & b)' below cannot be made separately. Instead, charges will be deducted from the annual levy as follows:

**a. Excursions / Incursions Levy**

- \$80.00 for Years P-1-2
- \$100.00 for Years 3-6

**b. Sport/PE Levy**

- \$25.00 for Years P-1-2 –covers costs for dance
- \$50 for Years 3-4 - covers costs for dance, athletics & cricket carnival
- \$127.00 for Years 5-6 – covers dance, athletics and interschool sports

**c. Swimming**

- \$110.00 - Swimming lessons are an important part of the school's program and run over a two week period. The lessons are provided by trained instructors at the YMCA Kensington. Parents will receive a permission form and further information regarding swimming in the term before lessons start.

Please note:

- Government assistance to the value of \$125.00 is available in the form of the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)– see details under 'Government Assistance Programs'.
- Payments for all student charges may be paid in full or by four instalments at the commencement of each term. Please discuss your preference for payment with our office staff.

**PART 3 - Camp** - \$50.00 will be collected from students in years 3-4 as a deposit towards the 2018 camp. Details regarding the year 3 / 4 camp will be distributed in 2018. Deposits for the Year 5 /6 Camp to Canberra have already been collected in 2017 to secure the booking.

**PART 4 - Moonee Vale Instrumental Music Program (MVIMP)** This program offers students in years 3 – 6 the opportunity to learn an instrument (woodwind, brass, strings, percussion, bass guitar) and perform as part of a group. Lessons are provided weekly with two concerts and other performances throughout the year. Year 5 and 6 students may also have the opportunity to attend music camp once during their time in the program. Camp attendance will incur an additional cost. More information about MVIMP as well as forms can be found at: <http://www.avps.vic.edu.au/MVIMP.html>

**PART 5 - Voluntary Financial Contributions**

Parents are invited to make voluntary contributions to the following school funds:

- a. Building Trust Fund
- b. Library Trust Fund
- c. Student Sponsorship
- d. Working Bee

Please note:

- Voluntary contributions paid into the **Library Fund** or the **Building Fund** accounts are tax deductible. Please retain your receipt for tax purposes. These voluntary contributions assist the school in maintaining our facilities and replenishing our library stock.
- The **Student Sponsorship** option enables AVPS to subsidise camps, excursions and sporting events for eligible families. The school very much appreciates the generous donations of community members, which help ensure children do not miss participating in these important school events.
- The **Working Bee** contribution is available for parents who would like to assist but are not available to attend our scheduled working bees during the year. If parents cannot attend and are not involved in other voluntary work at the school, they may choose to make a working bee contribution.

Please circle or highlight the relevant amount on the charges sheet if you wish to pay any of the voluntary contributions. Your donations are very much appreciated by the school.

The Finance Committee of School Council will continue to monitor and oversee the collection and expenditure of all student charges. Statements will be sent home throughout the year, enabling parents to check and monitor all payments. Please note, Part 5 – Voluntary Contributions will not be listed on these statements. Please settle accounts as soon as possible in the new year or term to enable programs to run smoothly. **Please note that students will not be able to attend activities if payments for Parts 2-4 Optional Items have not been received or a payment plan arranged with office staff prior to the activity taking place.**

### **Support for Families**

There are a range of different support options available for all families to help make the costs of education more affordable to them at Ascot Vale PS and to encourage children's participation in important school events. These include:

1. **Lowering the cost of essential student learning items where possible.** Ascot Vale PS endeavours to seek competitive supplier costs and to minimise excursion costs where possible through walking or taking public transport between locations.
2. **Second hand strategies.** The school runs a successful second hand school uniform shop where 'pre-loved' items are donated and are available for sale for a gold coin donation.
3. **School Assistance.** The school can assist families by establishing payment plans for the purchase of items, such as iPads, if necessary.
4. **Student Sponsorship.** The school is able to provide subsidies for camps, excursions or sport to eligible students due to the generous donations of AVPS families.
5. **Government Assistance Programs.**
  - a. The **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)** to the value of \$125.00 provides payments for eligible students to go towards the cost of camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply and a Special Consideration eligibility category also exists. Please note, if a child leaves AVPS throughout the year, the remainder of their unspent CSEF will be transferred to their next school.
  - b. **State Schools' Relief** may cover the cost of new school uniforms, shoes, books and more for disadvantaged students. State Schools' Relief only responds to requests from school principals, assistant principals or welfare coordinators. Parents or Carers who are struggling need to make an appointment with the school to discuss their situation.

- c. **Student Scholarships** are generally awarded on the basis of academic achievement, participation in the school and local community, or financial need, but are not limited to these. The Department of Education and Training administers 35 different student scholarships, equating to approximately 250 scholarship awards as some scholarships have more than one award.
6. **Community Assistance.** The school is able to provide families with links with local services and welfare groups which can provide specialist support and assistance to students and families in financial crisis. The school also provides a student sponsorship program to assist such families in need.
7. **Commonwealth Family Assistance.** The Commonwealth Government provides a range of payments and services to help families look after their children's health, education and other family issues.
- Please contact our office staff to arrange assistance if necessary.

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**Additional Extra Curricular or Care Opportunities Available at AVPS –**

Please note the following items are optional and are not included on the Student Charges Sheet. Information regarding these learning partnerships is also available on the last page of our fortnightly newsletter, available at: <http://www.avps.vic.edu.au/newsletter.html>.

**Learning Partnerships – school time** – The following extra-curricular programs will continue to operate onsite at AVPS during school hours, run by external organisations in 2018:

- a. **\*Piano Lessons** – Piano lessons are run at AVPS by Lamplight Music. All arrangements are to be made with Joshua Cowie on 0413 884 067. The program is available for students in Years 1–6.
- b. **\*Guitar Lessons** – guitar lessons are available for students in Years 2 – 6 and is run by Luke Collins. All arrangements for guitar lessons are to be made with Luke: 0422 329 946.

**Learning Partnerships – outside school time** – The following extra-curricular programs will continue to operate onsite at AVPS outside of school hours, run by external organisations in 2018:

- c. **\*Dance Theatre** P-6 by arrangement with: Raelene or Bruno: 0423 089 981 or 0421 859 540 [dancetheatre@gmail.com](mailto:dancetheatre@gmail.com)
- d. **\*Sporty Stars (previously Big 5 Sports) ENROL ONLINE:** [www.sportystars.com.au](http://www.sportystars.com.au) or 0422 043 853 email: [info@sportystars.com.au](mailto:info@sportystars.com.au)
- e. **\*Soccer Time Kids** Phone: 1300 476 223 [www.soccertimekids.com.au](http://www.soccertimekids.com.au)
- f. **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)** – The AVPS OSHC program is run by Camp Australia. Enrolment forms are available on line at Camp Australia Customer Service, [www.campastralia.com.au/new-parent](http://www.campastralia.com.au/new-parent), by phone 1300 105 343 or by calling Dee at the Out of School Hours Program on 0423 795 247.

\*A limited number of learning partnership scholarships are available for items a-e above to eligible families, ie, who are concession cardholders. Scholarships will be determined by lottery if more than one child is considered. These scholarships usually provide one term of tuition with our learning partnership companies. Please contact the office if you have any questions about learning partnership scholarships.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Osborne & Michael Downing - Principal Team